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DAMASCUS (AP) - Syria chastised France Saturday for ignoring Arab sentiment to conclude a military cooperation accord with Israel hard on the heels of the Feb. 25 mosque massacre in the Israelioccupied West Bank. In a front-page editorial, the government's leading newspaper, Tishrin, said France's action "does not only threaten the peace process, but also the security of the Palestinian people and the Arabs at large." French Defence Minister Francois Leotard ratified the military cooperation agreement in Israel Thursday. Tishrin said the new military agreement "poses a blatant deviation from the traditional policy adopted by (Charles) de Gaulle and an abject encouragement for Israel to commit more aggressive acts." This "turnabout," added the paper, pointed to French "involvement in a hostile campaign against the

Bombay police detain 2,760

BOMBAY (AP) --- Police held more than 2,700 people in custody Saturday, the anniversary of Bombay bombings which killed 257 people. "This had to be done as a precautionary measure." to prevent any sectarian violence, Joint commissioner of Police O.P. Bali said Saturday. Police blamed the March 12, 1993, blasts on relatively Muslim radicals who, police say, were taking revenge after subdued Hindu zealots demolished a mosque in the central Indian town of Ayodhya. The 13 blasts, one of which crippled India's largest stock market, injured 700 people and rocked Bombay. Most of the people taken into custody in the past 10 days are listed by police as habitual offenders. Mr. Bali did not say when they would be

Bhutto vows to defend women's rights

ISLAMABAD (AP) - Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Saturday visited a hospitalised woman who suffered a brutal assault and then called for a crusade to end domestic violence against women. The victim, Zainab Sharif, says her husband tied her up and placed a red-hot iron in her vagina. She is suffering from numerous internal injuries and may not survive, according to doctors at Rawalpindi general hospital, near Islamabad. Her husband Masjid Hafiz Sharif has been jailed. Before the case was publicised in recent days, he was a highly respected prayer leader in the Chakwal district, about 150 kilometres northwest of Islamabad. "Being a woman prime minister, I cannot tolerate degradation and inhuman treatment of women," Ms. Bhutto said after visiting with Zainab. "No one will be able to get away with violence against women on the pretext that it is a domestic

Iran speaker slams human rights report

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's parliament speaker on Saturday slammed a United Nations report accusing Iran of human rights violations as an attempt to deflect attention from rallies dedicated to protesting against Israel. Iran's IRNA agency, reporting a parliament speech, said Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri accused human rights groups of ignoring the Hebron massacre. "Referring to recent claims by the U.N. Human Rights Commission that there were human rights violations in Iran, Nateq-Nouri said the global arrogance (the West) renewed its accusations against Iran in an attempt to overshadow the international Qods Day." IRNA said the speaker praised attendance at demonstrations in Iran on Friday to mark the Jerusalem Day, the last Friday of the Holy Month of Ramadan dedicated to protest against the Jewish state by Iran's late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. | commanders lined up on the

PLO ready to resume talks, if U.S., Russia back U.N. move

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said on Saturday it was ready to resume talks with Israel once the United States and Russia back up a U.N. resolution condemning the Hebron massacre and ensuring the security of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The U.N. Security Council is expected to vote on the resolution on Monday.

A draft calls for measures to "guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied territory, including.... a temporary international or foreign presence, which was provided for in the declaration of principles" signed by Israel and the PLO last September.

The United States and Russia are asked to "continue their efforts to invigorate the peace process, and to undertake the necessary support for the implementation," of the mea-

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas told Reuters on Saturday that peace talks with Israel could be

HEBRON, Occupied West

Bank (AP) — Scattered rain

showers and army curfews kept

most Palestinians indoors

Saturday, calming violence in

Hebron

sacre.

Israel.

is adopted and the co-sponsors pledge to guarantee Palestinians' security."

The PLO and Arab countries suspended talks with Israel after a Jewish settler massacred about 60 Palestinians in a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron on Feb.

Israel's withdrawal from Jericho and the Gaza Strip and the start of limted Palestinian self-rule there under the September accord have been further delayed by the killings.

Mr. Abbas signed the PLO-Israel accord with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on September 13 in Washington. He said the PLO expects that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei

Kozyrev would address the issue of guarantees and mechanisms for implementation of the U.N. resolution when they meet on Monday. Mr. Kozyrev said after meeting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis on Friday night

suming peace talks with Israel. "I am very pleased to announce that PLO leader Yasser Arafat took a great and

courageous decision," Mr. Kozyrev told journalists. Mr. Kozyrev said the PLO was relying on the proposed Security Council resolution and on guarantees by the cosponsors, the United States and Russia, that it would be

implemented. But Mr. Arafat standing beside Mr. Kozyrev, added the PLO was awaiting guarantees from the U.N. Security Council, firmly backed by Washington and Moscow, for the security of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"I have informed Mr. Kozyrev in the name of my colleagues (in the PLO leadership) that the PLO is committed to the peace process, despite the Hebron massacre and tragedy," he said. "But we are looking for

guarantees for the security of our people from the cosponsors of the peace pro-

tion, sponsored by Djibouti as coordinator of the council's non-aligned members. together with Britain, France. Spain and Russia, was formally circulated and council President Jean-Bernard Merimee of France said he expected a vote on Monday.

Mr. Kozyrev, who earlier on Friday met Israeli officials in Tel Aviv, said he would meet Mr. Christopher on Monday. He said Mr. Arafat had accepted an invitation from

Russian President Boris Yeltsin to visit Moscow. Mr. Kozyrev said the idea of

a fresh Madrid-style Middle East peace conference floated by Russian officials - and rejected by Israel - was not for the immediate future. "The Madrid conference is

an option which is open. We have to concentrate now on immediate things on how to save the peace process," he

Palestinian sources said earlier Friday in Tunis that Mr.

(Continued on page 5)

that the PLO leader had ex-Probe unveils Israeli army's double standards for Jews, Arabs

quiry into the Hebron massacre is exposing sloppy army practices, double standards for Jews and Arabs and the high moral cost of using the military to police another people.

this hotbed in the occupied territories for the first time in 16 days since the mosque mas-Some timest was reported in the Gaza Strip. The body of a slain Palestinian was left at his

family's doorstep in Gaza City's Rimal quarter, with a note signed by Hamas, alleging that the victim collaborated with Victim Hamis Hamida, 25. had been kidnapped by masked activists on Friday, settler violence.

Arab reports said. He was the 812th alleged collaborator killed in the six-year Palestinian Most of Hebron's 100,000 residents were kept indoors for a 16th day by a continued curfew imposed to prevent revenge attacks against Israelis in

America's top soldier

flies into Mogadishu

the wake of the mosque mas-Curfew restrictions also were imposed on the city of Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, after clashes there Friday

MOGADISHU (Agencies) —

The United States' top soldier flew into a still-dangerous

Mogadishu on Saturday to say

thank you to the last of his

troops to pull out of the Soma-

The chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff, General John

Shalikashvili, arrived at the

United Nations-controlled air-

port amid tight security which

underlined how perilous the

Somali capital still is 15 months

after U.S. troops first arrived.

U.S. helicopter gunships

clattered over the bombed-out

city and tanks guarded the

entrance to the dusty airfield.

soldiers in sandbagged posts

around the runway perimeter scanned houses from which

Bandits on Saturday seized

New Zealander Wayne Har-

greaves and Kenyan John Wa-

juhi from their vehicle in the

A U.N. spokesman said the

disappearance of the two, who

work for a catering firm feed-

ing U.N. personnel, was not

yet being treated as a kidnap-

ping. Gen. Shalikashvili, dressed

in combat uniform, saluted his

they are shot at daily.

U.S. Marines and Egyptian

lia rescue mission.

TEL AVIV (AP) - The in-Israelis have seen officers at sensus and it will only get

loss for words to explain lax security at the mosque where Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein killed at least 60 Palestinian worshippers two weeks Officers contradicted them-

selves and each other. They passed the buck when pressed by the five-member panel. appointed by the government, about the logic of orders that appeared to afford Palestinians little if any protection from

Testimony revealed that surveillance cameras had malfunctioned, half the 10-man guard contingent was absent during the massacre and commanders were unsure about how to interpret regulations that forbid soldiers to open fire on set-

Reaction has ranged from anger at the airing of such matters to relief that the uncomfortable realities of occupation were being exposed to a public often ignorant of events in the occupied territor-

runway and then was whisked

"It's to give the troops a send-off," U.S. Colonel Steve

The general, making his

second trip to Somalia this

year, will spend 24 hours meet-

ing U.S. troops camped out in

the sand dunes on the edge of

the airport. All will be gone by

He will also review sailors

Washington officials and the

nation at large were not sensi-

tive enough to the fact that

humanitarian peacekeeping

missions also carry risks, when

the Somalia mission changed

from a humanitarian one to

bloody clashes with local fac-

tions, Gen. Shalikashvili said

"In this particular case, hu-

Friday en route to Somalia.

man nature being what it might

be, perhaps we didn't have that

printed firmly enough on our

foreheads as this was occur-

ring," he told reporters aboard

must carry away the lesson that

those missions sometimes carry

very grave risks," he said.

Only certainty is violence,

"First and foremost, you

his airolane.

and Marines on the Peleliu

sitting off the coast.

away in an armed convoy.

Rausch.

March 25.

"The whole inquiry is a fiasco," said Aharon Levran, a_ reserve general and military researcher at Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv. "They will expose more and more. We are already a nation without con-

worse. Mr. Levran said the prospect of "army officers and securityservice agents blaming each other and arguing in public will not do us any good,"

The army and establishment have been examined before by inquiry commissions, whose recommendations are not binding but usus., re acted

Twenty years ago, a commission found top officials to blame for Israel's lack of readiness for the 1973 war. Defence Minister Moshe Dayan res-

A 1983 inquiry into the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut after Israel's invasion led to the removas of Ariel Sharon as defence minister.

This inquiry, the first to be broadcast live, has exposed "an unprecedented chain of failures, lack of discipline, negligence and mistakes" by

the army, said the respected daily Haaretz. Other observers say decades

of government policy in the territory is on trial along with military competence. Commentator Nahum Bar-

nea wrote of "27 years of distortions borne of occupation coming out. The more the inquiry widens, the more it exposes the modus operandi of Israel in the territories (to be) against international law and not up to many Israelis' expectations from their government and army."

There was an uproar after testimony Thursday by Meir Tayar, commander of the paramilitary border police who help guard the Ibrahimi Mosque, where the massacre took

Three of Mr. Tayar's men were so late for duty that they did not arrive until after the massacre, but he said they could not have acted against Goldstein even if they had been on duty.

He said regulations forbid soldiers to fire at a Jew, even if the Jew is killing Arabs. Sol-diers confronted with a Jewish gunman are to "take cover and wait for the clip to finish, then

(Continued on page 3)

Pro-Israeli gunmen kill 2 resistance men

MARIAYOUN (Agencies) — Israeli-backed militiamen killed two Palestinian guerrilla infiltrators in a shootout Saturday on the snow-blanketed foothills of Mount Hermon in South Lebanon, security sources said.

A third guerrilla was captured by militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and a fourth surrendered to Norwegian soldiers of a U.N. peacekeeping force, said the SOURCES.

Both survivors were wounded, said the sources, who could not be named in line with standing regulations.

In Israel, the army confirmed the clash and the casualties. Army sources said an Israeli ski resort on Mount Hermon was closed to the public while soldiers searched the area to make sure no guerrillas had slipped into Israeli terri-

The Lebanese security sources said the guerrillas belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GCD), a group based in Damascus and headed by former Syrian army captain

Using infiltration trails behind Syrian army lines in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, the guerrillas slipped into the eastern sector of Israel's selfproclaimed "security zone." the sources said.

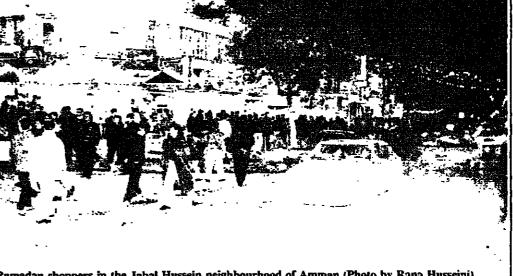
The first two infiltrators were spotted by the SLA militiamen at 9 p.m. (1900 GMT) Friday near the village of Kfar Shuba. One was captured by the SLA and the other surrendered to Norwegian troops at a nearby position. He was later handed over to the Lebanese army.

A second squad, apparently dispatched to rescue the captives, was intercepted at 7:40 a.m. (0540 GMT) Saturday near Chebaa, five kilometres southwest of Kfar Shuba. After a firefight, the bodies of two guerrillas were found lying on the battleground.

The guerrillas were armed with AK-47 assault rifles and each carried a number of hand and rocket-propelled grenades, according to reporters who were allowed to see the blood-stained bodies before they were removed.

The Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said in a statement in Beirut that its guerrillas had succeeded in

(Continued on page 3)



Ramadan shoppers in the Jabal Hussein neighbourhood of Amman (Photo by Rana Husseini)

Muslim World celebrates 'Eid Al Fitr feast today

AMMAN (J.T.) - Jordan, along with the rest of the Muslim World, Sunday begins the 'Eid Al Fitr feast, but celebrations in the Kingdom are subdued following the Feb. 25 massacre of at least 60 Palestinians at a mosque in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron.

The Kingdom is observing a four-day 'Eid holiday that began Saturday. The country will go back to work on Wednesday.
All essential departments:

such as the postal services. civil defence, security forces and hospitals, will remain functional throughout the

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait,

Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates announced overnight that a three-day 'Eid Al Fitr holiday would start on Sunday.

The official news agencies of the five states said that Saturday will be the last day of the fasting month of Ramadan. Religious authorities and

members of the public had been asked to look out for the new moon on Friday evening. Failure to observe it then meant that Saturday, the 30th day of the lunar month, would by law be the

Francis Cardinal Arinze, president of the Vaticanbased committee for interfaith dialogue issued a statement Saturday wishing all Muslims a happy 'Eid Al Fitz.

"As believers in God, the Merciful and Compassionate. who cares for the weak and the downtrodden, let us pledge to work together to uphold family life." the message said. "We could foster increased contacts between Christians and Muslims to exchange on family values. As members of the one human family, we could work in solidarity to help those in need. In so doing we would be giving a human expression to divine compassion. Let us pray that God may assist us in this task, for nothing is impossible for the one who trusts in God."

Rockets hit Eid shopping

KABUL (AP) - Rockets slammed into a busy market in central Kabul on Saturday as residents were shopping for one of the biggest Muslim holi-

At least three civilians were killed and 22 wounded, according to Dr. Salmat Omer at the nearby Jamhouriat Hospital.

The rival factions have continued their battle for Kabul throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan. Many residents braved the latest shelling to shop for the three-day Eid Al Fitr holiday, which is to begin Sunday following the end of Ramadan.

Several of the victims were hit on Chicken Street, a market favoured by wealthy Kabul residents and foreigners because it stocks imported goods and has numerous carpet and antique shops.

The artillery attacks have become a daily feature of life in Kabul for the past 10 weeks. Renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his ally, warlord Rashid Dostum, have been pounding the city

with rockets since they launched a Jan. 1 assault to oust president Burhanuddin Rabbani. The president's forces still control most of Kabul. but the city has been devastated. In Saturday's attack, it

appeared the rockets were coming from positions controlled by Mr. Hekmatyar and General Dostum on the southern edge of the city. Mr. Rabbani's national

security headquarters are near Chicken Street and may have been the target. However, the factions are notoriously inaccurate with their artillery fire and the vast majority of the casualties are civilians. "Hekmatyar is trying to

frighten people by these rocket attacks," said Najibullah, an assistant to Ahmad Shah Masoud, the president's top military commander. There have been rumours

circulating in Kabul that Mr. Hekmatyar and Gen. Dostum will launch another major assault after the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday.

In the northern part of Kabul, scores of families were leaving the city and buses headed to the eastern city of Jalalabad were packed.

Iraqi team heads for Kabul during U.N. talks in New York

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz delayed his departure for New York Saturday, but sent an advance team to prepare for a visit to the United Nations to seek an end to the oil embargo of Iraq.

An Iraqi embassy spokes-man, Adel, Ibrahim, said Mr. Aziz will leave Monday.

The advance team was led by General Amer Rashid, head of Iraq's Military-Industrial Organisation. Mr. Ibrahim said there was a

"last-minute change in schedule" and Mr. Aziz stayed behind. But he refused to elaborate. The 10-man delegation will explain to U.N. officials that

"Iraq has complied with all U.N. resolutions pertaining to the destruction of nonconventional weapons and that the oil embargo is no longer justified and must be lifted completely," another Iraqi di-plomat said Friday. The U.N. Security Council

imposed trade sanctions on Iraq after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and occupied the emirate for seven months. Before Iraq can again sell oil, its main source of foreign exchange, U.N. weapons experts must certify to the Secur-

ity Council that Iraq has fulfil-

led its obligations to declare

AMMAN (Agencies) - Iraq's and destroy prohibited weapons and accept long-term monitoring of its weapons programmes.

Last November, Iraq reversed its previous position and acknowledged U.N. Resolution 715, which commits it to long-term monitoring. Since then, Baghdad has in-

creased demands that the trade blockade be lifted. Food and medical supplies

are exempt from the sanctions. But Iraq, with its oil exports halted and its assets abroad frozen, has exhausted its fore- . ign currency reserves and now says its has no more cash to pay for them.

Baghdad says the embargo claimed the lives of more than 400,000 people, including children and the elderly.

The United Nations has offered Iraq a one-time sale of oil worth \$1.6 billion to pay for urgent humanitarian needs and U.N. costs, but Baghdad has rejected the conditions, saying they infringe on its sovereign-

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said he wants to convince Iraq to accept the plan, in part because of the strain on U.N. funds from the weapons monitoring opera-

(Continued on page 3)

Upon the Occasion of EID AL-FITR



ARAB BANK

is bonoured to convey to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN and to the

ARAB & ISLAMIC NATIONS

Its most cordial wishes and greetings

Parliament approved the measure in a late-night vote on Thursday amid a wave of revulsion and fear caused by the unprecedented bombing of a Maronite church which killed 10 worshippers last month.

Parliament also voted to make the death penalty mandatory in criminal cases of murder where intent is proven ending a 10-year freeze on capital punishment — and acted to speed up the snailpaced administration of criminal justice. Arguing that Lebanon faced

an exceptional situation and a high rate of violent crime. Progovernment deputies brushed aside protests by colleagues demanding more careful study of the proposals.

"It is indispensable to provoke a shock," Sunni Muslim Deputy Sami Khatib, a former interior minister and army commander, said.

Maronite Deputy Ghassan Matar demanded immediate application of the new law "even if it must bring daily The government of Prime

Minister Rafik Al Hariri hurriedly proposed the tough package on Monday amid concern about deteriorating security after the Feb. 27 church bombing and other attacks on Christian targets. The government has been

under heavy criticism, particularly from the influential Christian minority, for the failure of authorities to catch the authors of any of the attacks. Attacks have included a failed attempt to blow up a busload of Orthodox priests last summer, the bombing of

the right-wing Falange Party headquarters in December and last month's church bombing. The dismantling of a powerful bomb at the ral Centre in a Christianinhabited region on Wednes-

upset Lebanon's fragile politic-A little over three years after the end of the 1975-90 civil

day added to fears of a plot to

war, some Lebanese fear renewed sectarian conflict if angry Christians respond by attacking Muslims.

Leaders of the Christians. who emerged weakened from the civil war, have warned that failure to catch the bombers would sap the loyalty of their community to the state and undermine their confidence in the government's good faith towards them.

The government is also under pressure to tighten up the administration of justice after a scandal last month in which Muslim fundamentalists took the law into their own hands and executed a suspected teenage murderer

under Muslim Sharia law. The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and local clans in the Bekaa Valley town of Baalbek refused to hand over 16-year-old Hussein Awadah to police, saying the judicial system would take too long and would not guarantee his execution for the alleged murder of a woman and her two

No judicial executions have been carried out in Lebanon since 1983 because judges have used extenuating circumstances specified in the law to avoid imposing capital punish-

Parliament voted to delete the extenuating circumstances, closing the loopholes in the law and making the death penalty mandatory.

It also voted to establish new regional criminal courts and authorised the Justice Ministry to reinforce the under-manned judiciary by appointing up to 50 practising lawyers as judges without having to graduate from the college for judges. Hizbollah, marking Jeru-

salem Day, accused Israel Friday of setting off bombs in Christian areas to plunge the country back into sectarian "We are facing an Israeli

project to revive strife on more san Nasrallah told a rally of about 5,000 guerrillas and supporters of Hizbollah in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Through the bombings, he added, Israel also aimed to



A member of Fateh Hawks sprays grafitti on a wall in the Gaza Strip as another keeps watch

4 killed near Egyptian monastery

CAIRO (Agencies) - Gunmen killed four Coptic Christians in a drive-by shooting Friday night at a 16-century-old monastery in southern Egypt known for its charitable work in the Nile Valley.
The Interior Ministry said

the dead and three wounded were males, including a 13year-old pupil and a 45-yearold priest. All were cut down as they entered deir Al-Muharraq north of Assiyut. It was the deadliest incident

targeting Coptic Christians since May 1992, near the start of radicals campaign of vio-lence to destabilise President Hosni Mubarak's largely sectarian government. More than 320 people have died since then, mostly police and ex-

In the 1992 murders at Dairut, south of the monastery, extremists killed 13 Christian farmers and a Mushim friend in a dispute that grew out of a soured land deal between Christian and Muslim

Friday night's attack also sectarian violence in the area just north of Assivut, 370 kilometres south of Cairo, an area of Egypt historically vital to the Coptic faith. Before Friday, three-copts were slain and three wounded in the area

this month apparently in religiously motivated assaults. The Interior Ministry said an unknown number of gunmen carried out the attack at 6:30 p.m., a half-hour after the start

time fast during the Holy Month of Ramadan. A spate of bombings in Cairo and in the Assiyut area during Ramadan, which ends Sunday, also were at iftar. Urban streets generally are clear then, and the explosives

of the meal breaking the day-

not to cause injury. But the monastery shooting was the opposite.

appeared to have been so as

Deir Al Muharraq, at the edge of the desert outside the village of Al Qusiya, is a popular pilgrimage site for Copts. Also called the Monastery of

the Holy Virgin, it was built around the fourth century at a spot where Coptic lore says the holy family — Joseph. Mary and Jesus — stayed for 3½ years in their sojourn in Egypt to escape Herod. Some Copts say the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in its inner courits altar stone dated Dec. 11,

Deir Al Muharraq is known as the largest and wealthiest Coptic monastery, whose 85 monks share their wealth with peasants in the district.

The shooting occurred just before a unity programme was aired on national television featuring Pope Shenouda III, the Coptic primate, and government ministers including the premier, Atef Sedki.

"A true Egyptian never says that there is a Muslim and a Copt," Dr. Sedki said. "Our nation is one: It's not Christian or Muslim."

Many Egyptian Muslims honour a tradition on the last Friday of Ramadan inviting Copts to share their iftar. The government said on Friday it had thwarted a plot by

militants to blow up night-clubs, cinemas, theatres and to assassinate public figures.

Interior Ministry officials said the sabotage plan was discovered in faxes, sent from abroad, seized with 25 mili-

tants who were arrested this Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi, quoted by the semiofficial Al Ahram newspaper, said the faxes instructed the militants to "carry out specific terrorist operations" over the

Among the bomb targets, he said, were nightclubs, cinemas. Threatres and public sites. The faxes, of unknown origin, had instructions to kill specific prominent public figures over

Palestinians and diplomats in . tug-of-war over recognition

By John West Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM - Palestinian politicians have only one thing on their mind when they greet the influx of diplomatic missions to the Israeli-occupied territories and sign development deals statehood.

As the international community beefs up its presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and works out how to spend billions of dollars of development aid, anxious Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials angle every last detail of negotiations, contracts and ceremonies towards their dream of a state of

So far, they have met with mixed luck as foreign missions in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and high-ranking visitors from abroad carefully measure out their gestures to match their country's degree of enthusiasm for a Palestinian state. At one end of the spectrum

stands the United States, ready to be friends with the new PLO but quick to slap down Palestinian pretensions to anything more. Israel, Washington's key ally in the region, officially opposes statehood. States with pro-Arab tradi-

tions like Greece and Spain are ready to go practically all the way, signing aid agreements directly with the coming Palestinian national authority or making loans directly to PLO headquarters in Tunis. But most Western countries

meet Palestinian ambitions half way, agreeing to the no-tion of dealing with a Palesti-nian state — but only when it is clearly in place.

"Just as in our negotiations with the Israelis, our relations with aid donors are based on building a Palestinian state," said Ibrahim Shabaan, president of the Palestinian Housing Authority.

At a recent signing ceremony with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), he thanked Washington for financing a \$25 million housing project and then went immediately on the offensive.

"I must put on the record we want to sign full agreements, not a memorandum of understanding," he told the audi-

USAID, saying it could only sign full-blown agreements with sovereign states, gave the document the lesser title. On another occasion recent-

ly, American diplomats were aghast to find the stars and stripes flying alongside a Palestinian flag on a visit to PLO headquarters in East Jerusalem, and asked the Palestinians to take it down. "It's not surprising. The

Palestinians know our position very well and we know theirs," one U.S. diplomat com-Washington has promised

\$100 million in aid per year to the Palestinians to back the PLO-Israeli self-rule agreement. But its overwhelming commitment remains to Israel, with an annual \$3 billion grant and close coordination on Middle East issues.

Donors together promised over \$2.5 billion aid to the Palestinians in the next five years as part of an international consensus to back the PLO-Israel peace agreement. But each country is setting

its own priorities in deciding how to place the aid. This is heavily politically oriented since on the world scale of development economics, the occupied territories actually rank as middle-income.

"There's no way we could justify in pure humanitarian terms what we're spending here. Even Gaza is better off

than much of black Africa. That tends to make everything we do political," said a European diplomat running his country's aid programme.

A complex mix of factors determines each mission's aid programme, including not just its view of the Arab-Israeli issue but general aid policy and even the nation's political cul-

Countries where economic liberalism reigns triumphant, like the United States and Britain, stress support for the Palestinian private sector and shy away from too close an involvement with the official Palestinian development agency PECDAR.

But Sweden, with its strong tradition of social democracy, is likely to sign an umbrella agreement with PECDAR on the grounds that over-centralisation is less of a risk than chaos resulting from lack of coordination and an overall

Japan, which has pledged \$200 million in aid over two years as a sign of its growing foreign policy activism, has recognised the PLO and the idea of a Palestinian state longer than most Western coun-But since October, Tokyo

has funnelled most of the \$45 million it has donated through U.N. agencies and is unlikely to get involved with PECDAR or other Palestinian national institutions until they prove themselves viable. France has managed to keep

Palestinian policy-makers engaged by the adroit use of symbol and gestures at a time when Franco-Israeli ties are constantly improving.
Foreign Minister Alain Jup-

pe published an open letter in an Arabic newspaper during a visit in February referring to "President Arafat" and "the land of Palestine.'

Kuwait ill-prepared to use its expensive weapons

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait has not put into service some of the weapons it has bought since the Gulf war because the purchases were not made according to any strategy, National Assembly members say in a hard-hitting defence review.

A report on the review, carried by the English-language Arab Times on Wednesday, said a fact-finding committee of the opposition-dominated parliament reiterated longstanding criticism that Iraq's 1990 invasion revealed the military to be a symbolic force that collapsed when put to the

"The report emphasised that arms procurements made after the liberation were not made on the basis of any strategy or plan to indicate where or how these arms should be used," the newspaper said. "Consequently it is no wonder that some of the equipments bought were still noused." it quoted the report as adding.

The standing committee is investigating all aspects of the crisis with Iraq that preceded the August 1990 invasion. A U.S.-led multinational coalition freed Kuwait in February

Arms industry sources say Kuwait is considering buying major training and maintenance services to help it improve its use and storage of the weapons bought in its rearmament drive.

Some parliament members

criticise as unnecessary the more than 1.6 billion dinars (\$5.3 billion) spent or committed by the state since the occupation when the military was looted and destroyed.

Much of the spent money relates to weapon deals for the 13,000-strong Kuwaiti military made under post-war defence pacts signed with the United States, Britain and France. The parliamentarians have

also alleged some Defence Ministry officials illegally profited on the post-war arms purchases, an allegation the ministry has consistently denied. The government recently

submitted a new proposed defence strategy to parliament, but details have not been pubiished.

The government has also agreed in principle to list for the first time major arms procurement spending in the budget. Major arms purchases,

among other items like state investment flows, are not normally reflected in the budget. The military establishment

did not benefit for the development Kuwait had witnessed in various aspects of life since independence in the 1961. The army could not make any use of the huge funds spent over the years," the committee said, commenting on the preinvasion situation. "This is because the army

was not built on right, real and clear foundations but as a symbolic force that quickly collapsed in the first confrontaKin

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tion," it added. The panel said the Defence Ministry did not have a defence strategy based on a rational and correct foundation.

"The (defence) establishment has failed to deal with this subject, the main goal of building the armed forces and its size, the manpower required and their skills, the required arms, its sources, the types and their ability to use it,

"The government must work out a systematic plan containing a strategic vision on how to defend the country at least for the next 10 years."

The committee urged coordination must be carefully made between the time of arrival of newly-purchased arms with the army's capacity to use them.

The panel said that before the invasion the military's manpower "was not homogenous regarding qualifications and aims which eventaully resulted in weak military discipline which affected the effectiveness and competence of these forces. The military had failed to

attract the necessary human resources in addition to shortages in training and shortages of appropriate weapons, the committee was reported as

Rome (AZ)
Doha, Bahrain (GF)

MARKET PRICES

..... Moscow (SU)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:10

Nobel winner Mahfouz astonished at his fame tion: "He speaks to us all." wife, one each to his two tual and writer. Doubleday Editor Jac-But unlike Mr. Rushdie. daughters and one - his share

CAIRO - Until he won the Nobel Prize in literature, change never played a major part in Naguib Mahfouz's long At age 82, he's a man with a

penchant for privacy and routine. But on a quiet October afternoon in 1988, as he took his customary afternoon nap, Mr. Mahfouz's small world was shaken. What seemed then more dream than reality made Naguib Mahfouz a new friend

finds it incredible anybody cares a whit about his words. "I'm always astonished to learn that strangers like what I write," Mr. Mahfouz says.

on bookshelves from New

York to Japan. And the man

who deems himself "one of

Egypt's small people" still

The only Egyptian to win the prize, Mr. Mahfouz was little known outside the Middle East until the Nobel Prize made him the torchbearer for the Arabs" long and rich literary tradi-

His tiny world of upstairs and downstairs medieval allevways and colourful Cairo cafe characters soon became familiar on the world's literary scene. The Nobel selectors predicted as much in their cita-

JORDAN TELEVISION

queline Onassis, an early Mafouz fan, bet East and West would meet in Mr. Mahfouz and helped bring him to American audiences.

"The Nobel only whetted the public's appetite for Mahfouz," said his New York editor, Martha Levin of Anchor Books, a Doubleday distributed 400,000 copies of his works. At the time of the Nobel.

Mr. Mahfouz's Englishlanguage publisher in Cairo had only 10 Mahfouzes available. Today the American University in Cairo press has 16 and can scarcely keep up with demand. "It wouldn't surprise me if

there aren't a million Mahfouz books out there already," said Arnold Tovell, the press'

For his part, the seemingly unflappable Mahfouz strives to avoid more change. He has been out of Egypt only three times, all brief trips, and said he doesn't care to leave again. He sent his daughter to Sweden to collect his Nobel

Mr. Mahfouz keeps to the same simple lifestyle he always preferred. He split the \$390,000 Nobel Prize money four ways: One Part to his

His elder daughter Hoda said perhaps the only aspect of her father's life that has changed since the Nobel is "the security issue. We try not to dwell on it, but it's always there. Mr. Mahfouz is stalked by

violent passions sweeping his homeland and much of the Arab World. In february 1989, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran urged Muslims to kill Briton Salman Rushdie, a Muslim

born in India, for writing what

Ayatollah Khomeini consi-

dered a blasphemous novel, "The Satanic Verses." A month later, radical Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, already acquitted of charges he ordered the death in 1981 of President Anwar Sadat, said Mr. Mahfouz long since deserved to die for abandoning Islam by writing the 1959 novel "Children of Gebelawi." The political novel had

characters based on religious

figures like Jesus Christ and

the Prophet Mohammad. It

remains banned in Egypt. The death threat became more worrisome in 1992 when Muslim extremists gunned down Mr. Mahfouz's friend Farag Foda, a Cairo intellec-

who went underground and is protected by bodyguards, Mr. Mahfouz resists extra security. "I'm too-old to change my lifestyle," he told reporters. What he cannot change,

however, is the linking of two so different men in the eyes of the world. Virtually every interviewer asks for Mr. Mahfouz's views of Mr. Rushdie, almost to the exclusion of the Nobel laureate's 60-year literary career.

"It's unfair these two are intertwined," says Hoda Mahfouz.

The frustrations of old age are a familiar Mahfouz theme. In "Miramar," he speaks through aging Mariana, owner of an Alexandria boarding house: "Tell me, why do people hurt one another? And why do we grow old?"

Like a typical Mahfouz character, Egypt's famed storytel-ler finds himself trapped by the time and the place. A diabetic, Mr. Mahfouz is

functionally blind and nearly

deaf but has lost neither his humour nor his wide smile. Author of almost 40 novels, 14 books of short stories and scores of screenplays, Mr. Mahfouz read his last book years ago. He always loved to stroll through old Cairo but

ZARQA: Dr. Abdul Karim Kashashneh 983023

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EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre

can walk only short distances today. He writes only a weekly newspaper column - and that he has to dictate.

"I'd much rather be writing novels," he laments. Though Mr. Mahfouz wants the Rushdie issue behind him.

it is unlikely the much-

celebrated case will disappear.

The latest episode occurred late last year when a French publishing house issued "Pour Rushdie," a defence in French of Mr. Rushdie by leading Islamic writers and intellectuals. One of the essays is under Mr. Mahfouz's byline. He told the Associated Press "I was

used because he "willingly did not submit the piece."

Asked about Mr. Mahfouz's assertion, the editors in Paris told the AP the article would be withdrawn from "For Rushdie" before the U.S. edition is

annoyed" that his name was

published. What does he think about Mr. Rushdie?

"A writer's freedom is absolute." Mr. Mahfouz says.
"That freedom includes full thought and research. But not blasphemy. Mr. Salman Rushdie's Satanic Verses was not a book of thought and Research, but it was blasphemy."

Still, Mr. Mahfouz says, nobody has a right to call for his

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel: 77111-19 PROGRAMME TWO 17:30 Feature film. "Recidive" News in French News in Arabic You Bet Your Life..... 21:16 Doc. "Out Of The Past Bews in English

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Feature Film: "Six Against The Rock"

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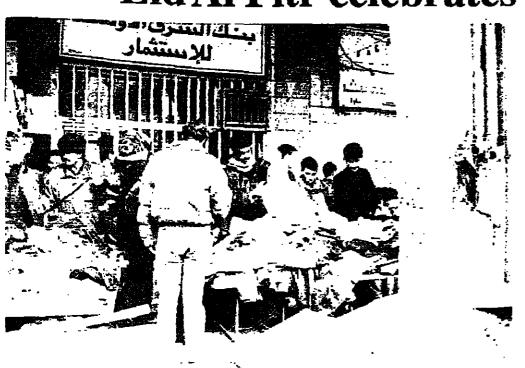
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DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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HOLIDAY SHOPPING: Despite scattered showers, ping centres in Jabal Hussein and downtown Amman Friday ng bustle with shoppers before Eid Al Fitr which begins







King receives 'Eid cables

Majesty King Hussein Saturwishes on the occasion of the start of 'Eid Al Fitr, the feast marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

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King Hussein received cables from King Hassan II of Morocco, Sultan Qaboos Ben Saced of Oman, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, Sudanese Leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir, Lebanese President El'as Hrawi, Palestimian Leader Yasser Arafat and Yemeni Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh.

because the fate of municipal

elections around the King-

dom depends on it. The draft

law, which was amended by

the House last week to allow

for the election of two-thirds

of the Greater Amman Muni-

cipal Council instead of the

half that the government ori-

ginally wanted, sets simul-

taneous election dates for all

municipal councils in the

The controversial draft

sales tax law will be at the top

of the agenda of the expected

extraordinary session due to

the urgency with which the

government wants the legisla-

tion signed into law, sources

opposed by many deputies

and industrial and commer-

cial sectors, is a basic require-

ment of the economic res-

tructuring programme en-gineered by the International

The House Financial Com-

mittee has already ended its

for the government's prefer-

ence of an extraordinary ses-

sion to extending the current

one is its willingness to have

the House focus on the leg-

islative part of its work rather

IAF deputies have said

they wanted the ordinary ses-

sion extended because they

did not want the government

The House has been criti-

cised for having disputes

among its members impede its legislative duties.

to set the House's agenda.

than political issues.

Monetary Fund (IMF).

The draft law, which is

country.

House may increase meetings to catch up on pending work

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - With much work unfinished and little time left before the end of its first ordinary session on March 23, the Lower House of Parliament could be holding daily sessions instead of two per week after the Eid Al Fitr holiday is over.

Acting House Speaker Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat said over the weekend that the House will definitely hold more meetings than it used to since the session started late last year in order to complete work on draft legislations on

The House will go into recess later this month amidst expectations it will be recalled for an extraordir my session whose agenda will be set by the government. Parliamentary sources say the House has the constitutionally required majority to demand the convening of an extraordinary session.

The sources said Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies will not succeed in their drive to have the current session extended because the government has clearly indicated it

is opposed to that. Deputies are not restricted in the issues they can discuss if ordinary sessions are extended under a decision that only His Majesty the King is constitutionally authorised to

Among legislations that both the House and the government are interested in finishing before the legislature goes into recess is the draft municipality law on which parliamentary debate

began two weeks ago. Sources say the draft legislation has to be finished

AMMAN (J.T.) — The low atmospheric pressure affecting Jordan and the rest of the Eastern Mediterranean region is expected to remain until Sunday evening, with more showers in most areas of the Kingdom, according to the De-partment of Meteorology

Saturday. A department spokesman said the southern highlands of Sharah, Shobak and Ras Naqab should expect more snowfall Saturday night and Sunday morning with poor visibility

because of low cloud cover and thick fog.

Earlier reports said at least 15 centimetres of snow Saturday fell on the southern areas including Shobak, Oadesieh and Rashadieh where some roads were closed.

The spokesman said the high pressure currently centred over northern Syria is expected to move eastwards Monday, causing rains to taper off gradually and partly cloudy skies.

He said Tuesday should be sunny with an expected rise in

Temperatures for Sunday are expected to reach a maximum of II°C and a minimum

Jordan, Holy See to exchange envoys soon

By Elia Nasrallah

AMMAN - The announcement by Jordan and the Holy See of the official establishment of diplomatic relations between them on March 3, 1994 has effectively raised the diplomatic rank between the two sides to embassy levels: and ambassadors are expected to be appointed shortly, according to Monsignor Raouf Najjar who is the charge d'af-

faires ad interim for the embassy of the Holy See in Amman. Speaking to the Jordan Times Saturday following his return to Amman from a visit

to the Vatican, Msgr. Najjar said the decision "reflects, the Holy See's desire to further Spain has, to date, been the Kingdom's representative at the Vatican because the Holy spain has, to date, been the Chaldean Syro-Catholic. Armenian Catholics and Marchite rites. develop mutual and friendly relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

"Vatican officials have expressed their delight over this favourable development, especially as they deeply respect and appreciate the significant role and policies exercised by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan towards and in the benefit of the Christian communities in the Kingdom,"

said Msgr. Najjar. Jordan's ambassador to See prohibits Rome-based envoys to perform such a role.

The papal government, instituted in Rome in 1929 is a sovereign entity and thus seeks to establish independent diplomatic ties with other coun-

Msgr. Najjar estimated the number of Catholics in Jordan to be 140,000. Of these, he noted, 69,000 belong to the latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, 21,000 are Greek Melkites and the rest from small

communities belonging to the

cial Commission for Western

Asia (ESCWA), the Jordanian

Msgr. Najjar also said that the Catholic Church of the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem has established 25 parishes with 340 priests and 1,707 men and women religious serving in the Kingdom.

Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Jawad Anani had earlier welcomed the move, expressing hope that the establishment of full diplomatic ties would contribute towards the establishment of a just and durable Middle East

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Book exhibition at the Safeway Internation

☆"Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

* Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

☆ Film entitled 'La Chevre' at the French Cultural Centre on Monday 14 March at 8:00 p.m.

NEWS HOUR

ABC Weekly News Highlights and the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center on Tuesday March 15 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting to focus on crime prevention

AMMAN (J.T.) - Efforts to combat economic and organised crime, the role of criminal law in protecting the environment and the use of the mass media in crime prevention will be among the issues addressed at the Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting in advance of the 1995 Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

Jointly organised by the Un-

ited Nations Economic and So-

Ministry of Interior and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch at the U.N. office in Vienna (UNOV), the meeting will be held from March 20 to 24 at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

Topics to be discussed include promoting the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme the improvement of law enforcement agencies, prosecution systems, courts and correction administrations: strategies for preventing urban crime, including juvenile crime and violence; and victims' concerns.

Similar regional meetings were recently held for Africa. Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Amman intergovernmental regional meeting will be attended by leading government officials involved in crime prevention.

Iraqi team heads for U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

kurdish-held north.

and the region."

The allied statement, issued

in Ankara on Thursday after a

meeting of British, French,

Turkish and U.S. officials, ex-

pressed satisfaction with "Op-

eration Provide Comfort," a

joint effort to deter Baghdad

from attacking the north and

allow humanitarian aid to

The statement urged Iraq to

Western governments ac-

cuse Iraq of operating an inter-

nal economic blockade in the

north of the country. Iraq de-

reach its 3.5 million people.

lift an economic blockade it

said Baghdad was operating in

the north.

The Security Council is scheduled to review sanctions against Iraq around March 16. However, indications are that the trade blockade will con-

The United States has been deliberation of the draft legpushing for extending the sancislation and recommended that the House approve it tions until Iraq meets other after endorsing what its presi-U.N. cease-fire resolutions, dent, Ali Abul Al Ragheb. such as recognition of the U.N.-drawn Iraq-Kuwait froncalled the "major amendments" it introduced to it. tier and an end to persecution of minorities in Ira.

France, however, is pressing Amidst the reasons cited

for easing the sanctions and has been discussing with Iaqi officials oil and food trade once the sanctions are lifted. Last weekend, French foreign ministry officials met with the Iraqi undersecretary of state for foreign affairs, Riad Al Qaisi, in Paris and reportedly discussed such issues.

Iraq hits allied statement

Iraq rejected as interference in its internal affairs a joint statement by the United States

crossing the border and had and its allies attacking Baghkilled and wounded Israeli sold is policy towards the diers in a northern Israeli settlement.

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry It called the attack "the opofficial described the statement eration of the martyrs of the as "impudent" in a communimosque," in reference to the que released late on Friday. massacre of Palestinians by a adding that it expressed "the Jewish settler in a Hebron reality of the policy of interfermosque on Feb. 25. ence practised by the United The security sources denied States and its allies against Iraq

the guerrillas had entered Saturday's encounter followed daylong clashes Friday that pitted Israeli troops and SLA militiamen against

Iranian-backed guerrillas of

Hizbollah (Party of God).

Eleven people, 10 Lebanese civilians and a U.N. peacekeeper from Fiji. were wounded in the artillery and rocket exchanges.

The bombardments were triggered by a roadside bomb explosion that targetted an SLA patrol in the "security zone." The attack was claimed by Hizbollah.

Timur Goksel, the spokesman for the United Nations

(Continued from page 1) Interim Force in Lebanon. (UNIFIL) refused to disclose the name and rank of the

Fijian soldier, but said he was

Pro-Israelis kill 2 guerrillas

UNIFIL's zone of operations abuts the Israeli-occupied The 5,200-strong, 10-nation UNIFIL was deployed in the

in serious condition.

region in March 1978 after a brief Israeli incursion. Israel carved out its "security" zone in 1985 to block

cross-border guerrilla attacks. The enclave covers 1,100 square kilometres and is routinely patrolled by 1,200 Israeli troops and 2,500 SLA militiamen. The SLA suffered a major

blow Monday when guerrillas killed seven militiamen and two civilian sympathisers in a spate of roadside bomb explo-

Tension has been running high in the south since a Feb. 7 Hizbollah ambush in which four Israeli soldiers were killed and five wounded

King condoles Balqez, Fakhouri families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Seturday delegated his Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef to condole the Balgez family over the death of Nabil Mohammad Balgez, King Hussein also delegated Amman Governor Abdul Wahab Nawaiseh to condole the Fakhouri family over the death of Raja'i Issa Fakhouri.

Probe unveils double standards

(Continued from page 1) stop him in some other way.

not be shooting," Mr. Tayar testified.

This seemed to shock the panel members, who spent most of that day trying to corroborate the testimony.

The inquiry "has exposed that, in the territories, there is a double standard, one for Arabs and another for Jews. where even a Jewish murderer cannot be fired upon," said Ran Cohen, a left-wing legislator. "I can't accept it. This is

Some army veterans were less surprised. "We always knew there were double standards," said Ori Orr, a reserve general and

not my Jewish morality."

parliament member from the governing Labour Party. "The government has done its best and made mistakes. It's a complicated situation."

Subsequent testimony generally confirmed such orders were in effect for routine street unrest, but officers maintained they were not meant to prevent security forces from foiling an attack such as Goldstein's.

They said that kind or situation was never anticipated, despite warnings of potential settler violence

Mr. Levran said the investigation was exposing "growing mediocrity in the army, as part of the mediocrity in our society in general."

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Talks at gun point?

THE *.OST shocking revelation to emerge so far from the Israeli inquiry into the Al Ibrahimi Mosqu: massacre was the testimony of the Israeli commander of border police who testified that Israeli security forces have been forbidden to shoot at Jewish settlers even when they are allowed to kill Palestinians in cold blood. "Instructions are to take cover, wait until the clip is empty or the gun jams and then overpower (the involved settler)," the commander told the stunned five-man panel investigating the massacre. Accordingly, even if all the Israeli security people were on duty at the mosque on that tragic morning, as originally planned, they would not have been able to do anything to stop the slaughter. The commander was quite explicit on this point. "Even if I had been there (in the mosque), I could not have done anything," he told the commission.

This constitutes a policy position instituted not by the right-wing Likud Party but by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin himself, the self-styled peacemaker. In a way this disclosure does not come as a surprise since Rabin has a terrible record when it comes to the treatment of Palestinians. His iron-fist policy towards the Palestinians with whom he professes peaceful intentions came vividly to the surface when, as a minister of defence in the government of former Israeli Prime Minister Shamir, he called on his troops to break the bones of Palestinians caught in the windmill of the intifada.

Little wonder then that the PLO is adamant on putting in place an effective international machinery for the protection of Palestinians before it resumes peace negotiations. Palestiman leaders cannot be blamed for suspending the peace talks with Israel as long as this danger hangs ominously over the heads of their people.

Likewise, U.S. procrastination over the adoption of a U.N. Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre cannot be reassuring to the Palestinians. More than two weeks have passed since the pogrom and the principal U.N. organ for maintaining peace and security is still unable to agree on an effective action to deal with its ramifications and implications. The council did not take that long to act in similar incidents in the world.

What adds insult to injury is the report that Washington has threatened to veto any action by the council if the PLO does not commit itself to returning to the peace process forthwith. This kind of arm-twisting is not exactly the most beneficial way to advance the negotiations. The parties cannot be expected to negotiate in earnest with a gun pointed at their heads.

The Palestinian request for an effective international presence is all the more pressing given the preliminary findings of the Israeli commission. The United Nations must take into consideration these most damaging findings when they decide to act vis-a-vis the Hebron massacre.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'l daily said Saturday that if the United States is serious about the resumption of the Arab-Israeli pear negotiations, it should clearly demand that Jewish settles ent programmes on Arab lands be halted. Tareq Masarw h said that the United States realises too well that the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron is an Islamic shrine and ought to clearly denounce the presence of any armed persons at the place. This should be the only and natural reply on the part of the United States to the massacre, committed by the Jewish settlers and Israeli troops at the holy place in the West Bank cire, said the writer. Any condemnation by Washington of the m. sacre is one levelled at the Israeli government which is sol y responsible for the crime, added the writer. He said that the United States is, however, unexpected to move in this direction since it is American funds that continue to feed the settlements and encourage the presence of the settlers. We cannot be convinced that Washington is backing efforts for genuine and lasting peace as long as the settlements are in place and the settlers are armed, added the writer.

WE ARE not surprised by Israel's rejection of the Russian proposal for re-examining the whole Middle East peace process, because it is Israel which is benefitting from the status quo, said Al Dustour daily Saturday. Israel, which has aborted all moves for a genuine and lasting peace, has been defying the we -14 community and the U.N. resolutions all along and it is natural for the Zionist leaders to turn down Moscow's move to reassess the peace process with a view to giving it some momentum, sail the paper.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Don't buy comprehensive tax reform

COMPREHENSIVE TAX reform is an attractive slogan and a demand which looks so appropriate and legitimate that no official dare to reject. However, we have some reservations and objections which we dare to offer as follows:

The first objection is that the real objective behind the slogan is to make the job rather impossible to undertake. The desired result is to prevent reforming one law on the pretext that all laws should be reformed in a package deal. In this way, we don't reform the law, currently at hand, and in fact we don't reform any law. We will rather form technical committees which can waste time and put every thing on hold for the time

In this framework, the slogan of comprehensive tax reform was raised simply to delay and perhaps kill the general sales tax, which is a reformed version of the Consumption Tax Law. The government has had no alternative but to pretend that it supports comprehensive tax reform, provided the reform is implemented one law at a time. Committees were formed and set in motion, Income Tax Law may be the next target.

The second objection stems from the pragmatic fact that it is not in the best interest of the state and the Treasury to put all tax laws at the table at this point in time when political parties, professional unions and pressure groups and lobbies have been successful in building or reinforcing an anti-tax mood among the population. Taxation was given the image of

ripping off the people with no justification.

Jordan public opinion is currently mobilised against taxes, despite the obvious fact that taxes are the only way to preserve the state and maintain its vital services. Proper taxation is a pre-requisit for financial self-sufficiency and for the reduction of dependency on foreign and external borrowing instead of remaining under the mercy of doner states' good will, let alone paying off part of our debt.

The third objection to the so-called comprehensive tax reform is that legislative stability is more valuable than the introduction at short notice of cosmatic reforms, which may

"Proper taxation is a pre-requisite for financial self-sufficiency and for the reduction of dependency on foreign borrowing, instead of remaining under the mercy of donor states' good will." .

turn out to be set-backs. Businessmen were always able to live with stable deficient laws much better than laws which can be altered or changed frequently. Long term investors require an atmosphere of legal stability. They don't like an environment of uncertainly and the expectation of surprises. They need to rest assured that the legal guarantees of today could not be abolished or amended tomorrow.

Of course, we are not against comprehensive reform per se. The problem is what is meant by reform. Some activists mean reduction of certain taxes or removing others all together. They package this destructive call as alleviation of excessive

When we are dealing with the draft sales tax law they argue that this is an indirect tax, and accordingly unfair, the government should look for more direct taxes because they are more just. But once we start dealing with Income Tax Law, they will call for more exemptions and lower rates, ostensibly to alleviate the tax burden of limited-income groups.

They don't even mention the heavy responsibilities that the state has to undertake and the basic services and commitments which could not be financed from a budget already in deficit.

Almost one third of the 1994 budget will be financed by rescheduling of debts, foreign aid or fresh borrowing. I cannot understand the logic of some national parties and personalities

who allow themselves to recklessly participate in creating or strengthening an anti-tax position.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

Whitewater storm shakes White House

THE LEAD story in Washington for the past week concerns the Clintons' involvement in a real estate deal of the failed Whitewater Development Corporation. The story is essentially an old one and, on the face of it, appears to be more confusing than serious.

The scandal gets its name from the Whitewater deal. which the Clintons and their friends the McDougals, launched in the early 1980's. The scheme ultimately failed, as did many similar investments when the national real estate market plummeted at that time. There are some questions about why the Clintons did not claim a loss on their tax report for the year in which the Whitewater deal fell through, but these were investigated rather thoroughly during the 1992 campaign and judged to be not very Sètious.

The story is that in addition to being a friend of the Clinton's, James McDougal was the head of the Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, which ultimately became insolvent and was shut by federal regulators. Hillary Clinton, as a partner in the Rose law firm, represented Madison before Arkansas state regulators who were curious about the financial strength of the institution, and she apparently persuaded them of its solvency. Questions have been raised about the propriety of Hillary Clinton's representation of Madison before a state agency headed by a person appointed by her husband; and about whether at any time the Clintons became aware that Mr. McDougal was leading Madison into in-

Another facet of the story is that another Rose partner and Clinton friend, Webster Hubbell (who is now the third-ranking person at the Department of Justice), represented the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in its legal action against Madison. Mr. Hubbell somewhat quickly struck a deal which seemed to let Madison off rather lightly. The personal and professional links be-tween Mr. Hubbell and the Clintons raise the question of whether somehow the Clintons helped to get special treatment for their friend

James McDougal. Even in this brief and incomplete summary, it becomes clear how complicated the Whitewater case is, involving as it does so many interweaving personal, professional and political links. Moreover anyone familiar with a small state like Arkansas knows that such dealings are commonplace and, while not wholly ethical, are almost unavoidable where the state's leaders in politics and business move closely together in the same social circles, with personal ties going back years before any of them rose to

prominence. It is not surprising, that while Republicans have been trying for months to use the Whitewater story to discredit the President. Bill Clinton. they were unable to do so. For one, the story re-

mained too confusing. Although it was fascinating to the President's political opponents and to some reporters, it didn't make sense to the general public. And, even when pieces of the story were understood, they seemed rather trivial in comparison with the major issues of the day - particularly when it was understand that these incidents took place well prior to Clinton's pres-

And so while Whitewater remained an irritant to the Clintons, it was essentially a back-page non-story. Even when President Clinton bowed to congressional pressure and appointed an independent special prosecutor to investigate the case, the public barely took note. But the Whitewater saga

has exploded into a major press sensation over the last two weeks, largely due to miscues by the White House itself. The story's enhanced status is threatening to weaken Mr. Clinton's public standing and his chances to control the nation's political agenda in this critical legislative (health care, welfare reform, crime) and election (with 34 senate and all 435 congressional seats on the line) year.

In order for a non-story to become a scandal, it must be validated and it must develop extensions so that it grows in dimension with each passing

In part, it was Mr. Clinton's appointment of a special prosecutor that first gave validation to the Whitewater story. After all, the press and the public could ask, if there were no problem, why appoint an independent investigator to look at it? But it was on March 3, however. that the Whitewater story truly began to develop and gain the momentum neces-

sary to become a scandal. On that day, the Washington Post reported on its front page that key Clinton White House officials were briefed by the Department of the Treasury about the ongoing investigation into the failed Madison Savings and Loan, with which the Clintons have been linked. On that same day, papers across the country reported that Hillary Clinton's former law partner and now Associate Attorney General (Webster Hubbell) was being accused of excessive billing in a case in which he had been representing the same bank. The paper also covered reports that the special prosecutor is reopening the investigation into the reported suicide of Vincent Foster, Mr. Foster, who had been Deputy White House Legal Counsel, was another of Hillary Clinton's former partners at Arkansas' Rose law firm who had been involved with the Whitewater land deal.

The next day's national press reported that former

employees of the Rose firm in Arkansas claimed that some files of Mr. Foster's which related to the Whitewater case had been shredded. Although there has been no firm proof that the Rose firm did in fact shred any files, there are enough doubts that the story has stayed alive. (And within the past few days, reports have also surfaced about a safe which was removed from Mr. Foster's White House office after his suicide, the contents of which investigators have been denied).

There were also stories suggesting that White House Legal Counsel Bernard Nuss-baum had mishandled the entire affair in an unethical manner, and whether those allegations were true or not, they did lead to Mr. Nussbaum's resignation. And all the while there were daily stories of prominent Republican Senators who mistrusted the White House's handling of the scandal and were calling for a congressional investigation of the case.

Within the next few days,

once again, the press was filled with new Whitewater stories: Six Clinton administration officials involved in the briefing between the White House staff and the Treasury Department were subpoenaed by the special prosecutor to testify before a grand jury. There were questions about Hillary Clinton's role in the Rose firm and allegations that she had called for the shredding of the Foster files. And there were questions about whether Mr. Clinton or Mrs. Clinton knew of the ethically questionable briefings that the Treasury Department provided to White House staff on the Madison Savings and Loan investigation.

By now, the still and ever more confusing Whitewater story had all the ingredients of a national scandal. In this atmosphere the press began its practice of feeding on one crisis and competing for new and more sensational aspects

of the story. As Howard Kurts, the media critic for the Washington Post, put it "Like on any big story, when all the big news organisations are chasing it, you are afraid to sit on little development for fear that the other guy will have it tomorrow. So it does lead to overplaying some in-cremental developments." In his interview with the White House Bulletin, he added, "I don't think there is any question that journalists are far more absorbed by the Whitewater saga than the rest of America. I don't think most people understand the story, and I don't think most

people care about the story." The White House Bulletin ran a major article about the feeding frenzy itself, using the example of the strange series of rumours regarding the death of Vincent Foster. The New York Post ran an article about the safe that was allegedly moved from Mr. Foster's office after his death,

something which the White House denies. The reporter of the story, however, unwittingly helped to start a more wild rumours that Mr. Foster actually committed suicide in an apartment in Virginia and was moved to the park where his body was later found. How did this story get started?

The answer is unclear. The source of the rumour claimed that the Post reporter conveyed information about an apartment used by Mr. Clinton's advisors in Virginia to a Senate staffer and asked for confirmation. The staffer professed ignorance, but then began to spread the rumour that Mr. Foster committed suicide there. The spokesman for the senator denied the story, as did the Post reporter. However, the influence of the rumour was felt on Jones average fell more than 40 points before recovering slightly.

The Bulletin warned its

readers: "As often happens with scandal stories, at times the rumours can run ahead of the facts. Bulletin readers should expect to hear many more rumours in the weeks ahead, with a few of them making their way into the national press." Whatever the reason, the point is that what was once a minor backpage story has now become a daily front-page headline with new allegations appearing everywhere.

Suddenly the White House is a very public crisis. Even in a press conference that President Clinton held with Georgian President Eduard Shevernadze, the majority of questions were directed to President Clinton and centered around Whitewater. Once again, Mr. Clinton is not able to define his agenda or control the public debate on issues, and the effects on him have been serious. Public opinion polls show a decline of support for the president, and this is largely driven by attitudes regarding Whitewa-

While in mid-February, only 15 per cent of those polled believed that the president may have done something wrong related to Whitewater, today it is up to 36 per cent. This not only further erodes his support in a period when he needs it to pass legislation but it also virtually neutralises the role that i tillary Clinton can play as the eding advocate for health car. reform. Indeed, Lady's ratings have fallen even more than the president's. The trouble has been that these two weeks have brought back into public view some of the character questions that have been the Clinton's most troubling problem since the campaign: his trustworthiness and her arrogance and self-righteousness.

The writer is President of the Washington-based Arab-American Institute

Euro-election campaigns avoid talk about Europe

By Robert Woodward Reuter

LONDON - For Britons. June's European elections will be an opportunity once again to demonstrate their insularity. The main themes will be British jobs, Britain's economic prospects and the performance of Prime Minis-

ter John Major.
Of secondary importance,
but for the ruling Conservatives of destructive potential, will be Britain's place in the European Union (EU) and where the community goes from here.

Since sterling was forced to withdraw from the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) in 1992 and last year's battle over the Maastricht Treaty. the three major British parties have had to reasses their attitude to Europe.

Conservative and Labour officials agree June's ballot will centre on a largely domestic agenda because of scepticism among British voters about the European Union and the desire of party leaders to paper over internal rifts on Europe.

Even the centrist Liberal Democrats, Britain's most pro-European party, have, watered down their desire for a federal Europe to take account of the Maastricht fu-

But it is the Conservative government, almost brought down by an internal revolt over closer ties with Europe last year, which faces the toughest task - convincing voters they offer the best alternative at the June 9 poll for the European Parliament. Deeply unpopular because

of a series of scandals and policy crises, the party remains deeply split over Right-wingers who stepped away from the edge at the end of the Masstricht debate

still regularly voice their dis-like of what they see as the EU's centralising tendencies. Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd, his party's elder states-man, has the task of trying to appease these rebels while stressing the government's commitment to Europe in its

election manifesto. Party officials say he is nowhere near squaring the concerns of right-wingers who mistrust any policy emanating from Brussels with Mr. Major's wish to be at the centre of European policy-

making.
Mr. Hurd has pleaded for unity ahead of the elections in which the deeply unpopular conservatives, some 20 points behind Labour in opinion polls, are likely to be hammered.

"In 1994, if we have any wisdom we will not scratch about among the worn-out arguments of 1993," he told prospective Conservative candidates last month. "We should now put forward as a united party our idea of what Europe should be."

Mr. Major has tried to appease the malcontents by promising that Britain will not re-enter Europe's currency grid before the next elec-tion, due to mid-1997, and stressing his belief in a decentralised community of individual nation states.

The Conservatives plan to stress the "Britishness" of their European policy and how the government's wish for strong links with Europe protects British jobs. "Let's agree on policy and

not argue about institutions" sums up ministers' attempts at party unity.
Party chief Sir Norman Fowler, launching the Con-

servative campaign at the end of February, said: "This party stands up for British interests but is committed to Europe." As far as Labour is con-

cerned the European elec-tions, coupled with the local British elections in May, are a chance for voters to express their mid-term distaste for the government and perhaps trigger Mr. Major's downfall.

In the 1989 Euro-election Labour won 45 seats, the Conservatives 32, the Ulster Unionist one and independent candidates two, and the Scottish Nationalists one. In June, British constituencies will increase to 87 from 81.

Labour, which buried its pro-European stance during the Maastricht battle in favour of embarrassing the government, is expected to coast through the campaigtn, relying on voters' anger with Mr. Major and his ministers to win seats.

Mr. Major believes Labour's achilles heel is its support for the EU's social chapter on Labour and wel-fare rights which he claims would increase British business costs and shed jobs.

Mr. Major forced ratification of the Maastricht Treaty, with an opt-out from the social chapter, through parliament last July only after making the issue the subject of a vote of confidence.

But Labour believes its support for the chapter is a vote-winner. It accuses Mr. Major of wanting to create a sweat-shop economy and of speaking with a "forked tongue" on Europe.

The Liberal Democrats are ikely to be the big winners of the elections. Profiting from Conservative deserters and winning a protest vote which

went to the greens in 1989. Liberal Democrat research shows they could win five or more seats while Labour could take up to 60. Their campaign will focus on the splits in the two other parties over Europe; there is also a hard core of anti-Europeans in the Labour party.

Despite the prospect of a defensive campaign, some conservatives believe the party should take on, and hopefully rout, the right-wingers by running a vigorous, pro-European campaign which would show the electorate Mr. Major meant business.

"If we're lukewarm we won't get the votes here." said former prime minister Sir Edward Heath. "What we've got to have is a fullblooded, positive campaign by the prime minister and get people out to vote."

LETTERS

Spoiling the fun!

To the Editor

AS a regular and fervent reader of the Jordan Times, by far the only readable newspaper in town, I have learned to appreciate your efforts to keep a smile on our faces, if not even make us laugh with page six/bottom left corner of your paper. Nevertheless, I have slowly come to realise that the same item, humorous as it may be, is being published twice or even thrice at pretty frequent intervals of time. You may agree that the first time I read "the Better Half" about the whistling tea kettle, I could not help smiling. Yet, when I had to swallow it again in the issue of March 2, my expectations for a good

But there is always plenty room for improvements. I am confident that you will do your best to meet your readers'

Rodica G. Ma'ayta,

Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the

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World Cup game could attract Arab-Americans

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Saudi Arabia and Morocco meet in a first-round World Cop game June 25 at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, that could attract interest among thousands of people of Arab descent who now live in the United States.

Morocco goes into the game with a slight home-field advantae based on the number of its countrymen living in the tristate area near Giants Stadium. The 1990 U.S. census shows 696 Moroccans living in New Jersey, 3,643 in New York, and 79 in Connecticut. The census shows 15,541 people of Moroccan descent in the United States.

Meanwhile, about 900 Saudis live in New York, 228 in New Jersey, and 78 in Connecticut. Overall, there are 12.632 Saudi-born people living in the United States.

The census shows 6,990 Lebanese living in New York, 3,401 in New Jersey, and 1,239 in Connecticut. There are 9,425 Egyptians in New Jersey, 14,142 in New York, and 631 in Connecticut. A total of 66,313 Egyptians live in the United States.

World Cup organisers might have attracted huge Arab interest in the Saudi-Morocco matchup by locating it in the Detroit venue. The census shows 10,488 Lebanese in Michigan, many of them in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn. The Lebanese rank 10th in terms of that state's foreignborn population. Overall, there are 86,369 Lebanese in the United States, which ranks them 43rd overall in this country's foreign-born population.

Besides the Lebanese, the 1990 census also showed 14,343 Iraqis in Michigan, ranking them 6th in that state's foreign-born population. There were also 293 people from Algeria, 1,921 from Egypt, 263 from Saudi Arabia, 179 from Morocco, 158 from Sudan, 157 from Libya, and

113 from Tunisia. Saudi Arabia's two other games in the first round are against the Netherlands June 20 and Belgium June 29 at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in Washington, D.C. The census

Christopher apparently offered

a compromise in an effort to

woo Mr. Arafat back to nego-

The U.S. offer was made in

a letter to Mr. Arafat in which

Mr. Christopher urged him to

resume the negotiations "with-

out delay," they said. The let-

ter was delivered to Mr. Arafat

early Friday morning by U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy.

thy he could not respond be-

fore consulting with senior aides and other PLO leaders,

according to the sources.

Mr. Arafat told Mr. McCar-

The sources said Mr. Christ-

opher's letter promised that

the United States would sup-

port a resolution calling for a

temporary international or

foreign presence in the occu-

pied territories" in return for

the PLO's resumption of talks.

foreign military presence, they

The letter did not refer to a

Some PLO officials have

suggested a compromise could

mean a limited number of un-

armed observers. Israel has in-

dicated it might accept non-

military international obser-

The letter made clear that

the United States would still

refuse a reference to Jerusalem

as an occupied territory and

would not back a reference to

the Geneva convention, which

says an occupying power must

guarantee the protection of the

civilians in the area it occupies.

The U.S. delegation will ab-

stain from the voting on these

items when the resolution will

be put into vote, the sources

a strong message of support to

Mr. Arafat from the Russian

leadership and that he would

be presenting a Russian plan to

restart the talks to Mr. Arafat

He refused to divulge de-

But PLO officials said it

included support for interna-

tional protection for Palesti-

mans and promises to upgrade

the PLO's diplomatic repre-

sentation in Moscow and to

help establish a police force

once self-rule had been negoti-

. In Israel, Mr. Kozyrev held

and other PLO leaders.

Mr. Kozyrev said he brought

quoted the letter as saying.

the sources said.

tiations with Israel.

PLO willing for talks

(Continued from page 1)

shows about 120 people of Saudi descent living in Washington compared to 324 from the Netherlands and 187

from Belgium. Meanwhile, Morocco also plays Belgium June 19 in at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Florida. This could be an intriguing matchup, since both countries have a large number of French speakers. Belgium might have a slight home-field advantage in this game since there are 2,822 Belgians in Florida compared to 1,570 from Morocco.

Morocco's other first-round game is against the Netherlands June 29 in Orlando, and the Netherlands has the advantage with 6,097 of its countrymen living in Florida. The Dutch far outnumber Moroccans nationwide. The census shows 96,198 Dutch in the Un-

Saudi Arabía is making its first appearance in the World Cup, qualifying as the Asian champion. Coached by Leo Beenhakker, its top players are midfielder Khalid Al Muwallid, and forwards Fahad Mehalel, Mahed Mohammed, and Saeed Owairan. Each Saudi player was said to have received \$100,000 and a brandnew limited-edition Mercedes from King Fahd for qualifying for the World Cup. Oddsmakers put the Saudis' chances of winning the World Cup at 250-1. Co-favourites for the World Cup championship are Germany and Brazil. Oddsmakers put their chances of winning at

Morocco has qualified three times for soccer world's championship. Its World Cup record is one win, three losses, and three ties. In 1986, Morocco surprised many people when it reached the World Cup quarterfinals before losing to even-tual champion West Germany.

Morocco qualified for the 1994 tournament as Africa Group B champion.

Coached by Abdellah Blinda, its top players are forward Mohammad Chaouch and Mustapha, Hadji, and midfielder Rachid Daoudi.

Oddsmakers have made the Moroccans 150-1 shots to win the World Cup.

talks with Prime Minister Yit-

zhak Rabin and Foregin Minis-

ter Peres. He did not discuss

the results of those meetings.

partment said that Mr. Christ-

opher and other U.S. officials

have had numerous contacts

"Prompt implementation"

of the declaration of principles

is the surest way to try to

change the realities on the

ground for the Palestinians."

The deputy spokesman said that negotiations at the United

Nations continue on a possible

Security Council resolution on

Shelly said.

she emphasised.

In Washington, State De-

Living in fear

Egyptians forced to accept gun law as violence escalates

By Marie Colvin

MOHAMMAD never goes anywhere nowadays without a gun. Two of his colleagues in the secret police were shot and killed recently as they sat down to their evening Ramadan

Even as he rides to work on a motorcycle, he has a gun cocked and ready. His job. as a member of the interior ministry of police, transportation division, is to ride shotgun protecting passengers on the trains to Cairo from Assiut, the upper Egypt city that is the centre of a wave of fundamentalist violence threatening the government of President Hosni Mubarak.

Mohammad, 29, began chain-smoking cheap Cleopatra cigarettes after extremists raked one train with gunfire as it left the city, wounding four foreign tourists; then on Wednesday, they exploded a bomb in a first-class car as the train left Assiut station. wounding six other foreigners.

"Daily when I leave my home I don't know if I will return. Mohammad said as he sat in another first-class car, a target within a target. He is no stranger to fundamentalist violence. Last year, as a wave of shootings and bombings began, he shot and killed a terrorist who pulled a gun at the Assiut station and killed his partner. The dead man was carrying a bag that contained 13 bombs.

"I knew him because we used to pray together at school," Mohammad said. "I knew he had moved close to Islamic fundamentalists after he left the university and could not find a job. And I knew he would not be taking that train to go home." Mohammad received a cash reward, a pilgrimage to Mecca and permission to carry a gun fulltime because he was considered a

target for revenge attacks. Mohammad is an example of the internecine nature of the conflict that has Western governments, particularly Amer-

damentalists.

into the hands of the fun-He took his job in the police because after university he could not find employment. although Egypt guarantees a government job to all gradu-

ates. Safwat, the man he kil-

ica's, fearing Egypt's collapse

sroads where the fundamentalists fired from an abandoned villa knew the dead terrorist; he was 19 and lectured at the mosque. "He was very polite, very nice," said a local farmer,

Upper Egypt is an area of poverty, frustration and hopelessness. Its sons turn to extremist movements for solace against what they see as a corrupt and distant government. The situation is complicated by the fact that the area

"Upper Egypt is an area of poverty, frustration and hopelessness. Its sons turn to extremist movements as a solace against what they see as...a distant government."

led, was the same age and had the same experience, but he turned to Islam and eventually ioined the Gama'at Islamiya, a militant branch of the Islamic movement in Egypt.

It is this group and a parallel violent organisation, the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, that are responsible for the mounting cycle of violence in Egypt. Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, their spiritual mentor, is on trial in the United States on charges that he inspired the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York. Two weeks ago a militant was hanged in Cairo for the murder of Farag Foda, an antifundamentalist writer.

Most of the religious violence in Egypt occurs in and around Assiut and is rarely reported. Few weeks ago three members of the Gama'at Islamiva ambushed a military patrol returning from a sweep that rounded up hundreds of young men. One of the ambushers was killed, as was one conscript. The villagers at the cros-

Earlier last month, the Gama'at Islamiya threatened foreign tourists and investors with death should they not leave by Feb. 22. Two banks in Cairo were bombed few weeks ago. The government seems unable to end the attacks despite a policy of detaining thousands of suspects without charges, the imprisonment of many leaders and, according to

human rights groups, systema-

has a tradition of vendetta.

tic torture. Last month, American intelligence analysts reported to President Bill Clinton that Mr. Mubarak will not be able to hold out for long if things go on as they are. But influential Egyptians - no fans of the government - argue that the Islamic groups do not seem strong enough to seize power. Cairo shows little signs of tension with most people going about their business.

The violent fundamentalists have won little sympathy in the general population. The attacks on foreigners and

Egyptian fundamentalists shout anti-government slogans in front of Cairo's military court (AFP photo)

was killed last year during the attempted assassination of the prime minister - have caused revulsion among many Egyp-Nor are the Egyptian groups well funded any more. Iran, an early sponsor, has economic problems and is reportedly

Egyptians - a 14-year-old girl

sending less cash.. Money from Saudi Arabia, which arrived via supporters of those attempting to overthrow the Egyptian state or unsuspecting Saudis who thought their donations were building mosques or clinics, were cut off last year after the Saudi government, at Egypt's urging, passed a law that all foreign donations needed government approval. damentalists were a homegrown problem and blaming outside intervention." the Egyptian government seems to have finally admitted what it is facing. These people are not a threat that will lead to the overthrow of the government," Usama Al Bas, a presidential adviser, said recently. "But they are a serious prob-

After denying that the fun-

levels as well." That is not to say Mr. Mubarak is out of danger. If tourist revenues are cut deeply

lem and we are taking it

seriously. The solution is not

simplistic and the problem can-

not be solved merely by milit-

ary means. We are facing the

problem on cultural and social

tion that drove Iraqi forces

out of the emirate seven

Diplomats said Saudi Ara-

enough by the violence - the cost last year to Egypt was an estimated \$2 billion - the government's inability to continue social programmes, food subsidies and job creation campaign could provoke an explo-

It is not clear what inroads fundamentalists have made in the military, the traditional power in Egypt which spawned the assassins of Anwar Sadat. Earlier last month three soldiers, one an officer, were sentenced to death for the attempted assassination of Mr. Mubarak.

The Sunday Times

Strategy key to U.S. victory in Saudi planes deal of Kuwait and led the coali-

By Ashraf Fouad Reuter Landing

DUBAI - Saudi Arabia's need to tighten strategic ties with the United States and anger over Europe's reluctance to move against Serbs in Bosnia were crucial factors in its decision to buy American in a \$6 billion aircraft deal.

"A key factor is that Saudi Arabia believes only America is able to come to its rescue in a crisis." said an Arab diplomat familiar with the deal announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton last month.

recently with Mr. Arafat and **Another said French Prime** other leaders in the Middle East about restarting the PLO-Minister Edouard Balladur received first hand a taste of Israeli peace talks. "We want to help the parties Saudi anger when Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul reconvene their negotiations, complete the implementation-Aziz explained to him on a negotiations and get the implevisit to Riyadh in January mentation underway," Ms. why the kingdom sees

Europe's approach to Bosnia as ham-fisted. "It seems the prince told

him to his face that Europe's behaviour in Bosnia was shameful and made clear it was a tall order for it to expect a share of the aircraft deal," he added. Although King Fahd did

not specifically endorse his brother's outspoken comments, the prince's remarks underlined a deep Saudi disenchantment with Europe that may have torpedoed its chances of getting a piece of the action, he said.

Both Americans and

Saudis say commercial and technical merit alone decided the deal that Mr. Clinton announced as a triumph for his country's industry.

Mr. Balladur was the last of a string of European leaders to visit the king or phone

him to lobby for a share in replacing the ageing fleet of the national-carrier Saudia in what is being described as the aircraft industry's "deal of the decade,"

Industry sources say European manufacturers may still get some crumbs, probably world. You are truly the only game in town," Riyadh's long-serving Washington Ambassador, Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, a nephew of King Fahd, told Mr. Clinton when the deal was

announced. The diplomats said Saudis

"Gulf Arab oil revenues were seriously drained by the Gulf war, which cost Saudi Arabia alone some \$55 billion, and have been seriously eroded since by the oil price slump."

parts of some of the engines to power up to 60 long. medium and short-haul air-

But the Saudis have clearly signalled their political aims. "It is your destiny to be the only superpower in the the already close alliance with Washington and do everything possible to enhance commercial links.

Washington rushed half a million troops to Saudi Arabia after Iraq's 1990 invasion

believed it essential to tighten

bia, the world's largest oil exporter, believed the U.S. would come to the rescue once again. It sees the European attitude, by contrast, as

months later.

ambivalent. Saudi Arabia is also delighted Washington continues to stand firmly against the lifting of U.N. sanctions im-

posed on Iraq during the Gulf

Europeans, apart from Britain, adopt a softer approach. Riyadh is also unhappy about what it sees as an unseemly scramble by French and other European oil firms to cash in on Baghdad's eventual return to the oil market;

the diplomats added.

would lead to a resumption of Iragi oil exports at a time when oil prices are at fiveyear lows and poised to plunge further at any hint of a possible Iraqi return. Gulf Arab oil revenues

The lifting of sanctions

were seriously drained by the Gulf war, which cost Saudi Arabia alone some \$55 billion, and have been seriously eroded since by the oil price slump.

Another deciding factor that worked in favour of the U.S., diplomats said, was Washington's full cooperation in successful talks this year to help the Saudi gov. ernment over a cash crisis caused by the sharp drop in world oil prices.

It helped negotiate of the of \$6 billion on which was the was due to pay U.S. a. makers over two years.

Uprising in Bophuthatswana is blow to groups opposing election

By Tina Susman Associated Press

·But the chaos unleashed in

Bophuthatswana serves as a

chilling reminder of how easi-

ly South Africa's transition to

democracy could turn into a

The pro-African National

Congress (ANC) uprising forced the black homeland's

ruler, Lucas Mangope, to

accep the election and even-

tual reincorporation of

Bophuthatswana into South

Africa. It was a devastating

blow to black and white

groups trying to block the

Zulu' leader Mangosuthu

Buthelezi was left out in the

cold as the only black home-

land leader still reluctant to

enter the election. And mem-

bers of small, pro-apartheid

white groups have seen the

fate that may await them if

they persist in trying to

mount a war against a black

majority solidly behind the

African National Congress,

on Mr. Buthelezi to abandon

his white racist allies and seek

Pressure is sure to increase

JOHANNESBURG. South

the Hebron massacre. Ms. Shelly cautioned that the resolution "should not be Africa - The success of a viewed in isolation. It's one popular uprising against a despotic homeland leader is a possible element in a series of triumph for the forces trying steps that would get us back on to unite all South Africa bethe road to the implementation hind the country's first nonof the declaration of princiracial elections.

bloodbath.

She could not predict when the parties might agree on a resolution. But she stressed that the United States "will seek a prompt and appropriate Security Council action" as soon as the parties agree on a text which addresses the situa-

Ms. Shelly acknowledged that an interagency task force has been informally discussing and researching the issue of fund-raising activities in the United States by groups whose members might have been involved in terrorism because this issue involves U.S.

domestic law." According to Ms. Shelly, the group is "looking into whether any additional useful steps might be taken under existing laws and regulations." Its approach to the review is

'generic," she said. The deputy spokesman made the comments when asked about flow of American funds to "extremists" among the Israeli settlers in the West accommodation with the ANC, which is certain to lead the government after the

April 26-28 election.
"We hope all the despots are learning the lesson that the people cannot be oppres-sed forever." the ANC in Natal province said in a clear message to Mr. Buthelezi. whose stronghold is Natal.

"The uprising...is a warn-ing to those political forces who even imagine that the elections can be postponed."

Mr. Mangope, an unpopular despot ruling over the impoverished black homeland, was compelled to surrender to protests Friday and drop months of opposition to the vote. It took only a signal from the ANC, to spark a virtual people's revolution in Bophuthatswana. paralysing Mr. Mangope's government and splitting his security forces in a matter of days.

His capitulation further whittled down the freedom alliance, the coalition of proapartheid whites and anti-ANC blacks formed late last year to fight the election.

The ANC has negotiated with the alliance while standing firm in opposition to its demands for sovereign. ethnically based homelands - whether for white Afrikaners, Mr. Mangope's Tswanas or Mr. Buthelezi's

Zulus. Mr. Buthelezi, who heads

the Kwazulu homeland and is an alliance member, has registered for the election but says he won't take part without guarantees of Zulu sovereignty. Pro-apartheid white parties so far are boycotting the election. saying they will fight for a white homeland.

Both groups have threatened civil war if their demands are not met. But the slaying Friday of three rightwing whites by black soldiers in Bophuthatswana - including two executed as they pleaded for help - showed the difficulty they would face trying to create a united milit-

The whites, all members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement or AWB. were killed just hours after rolling into Bophuthatswana's burning capital vow-ing to help Mr. Mangope.

Mr. Mangope, despite his loathing of the ANC, wanted no part of the white AWB fighters, known for their racist rhetoric and Swastikalike insignias.

Hours after he asked them to leave, the whites were killed in a shootout with homeland troops who let them squirm in agony in the dirt for several minutes before executing them. invited.

"This claim of the AWB that they stand for independent homelands apparently



ANC leader Nelson Mandela salutes crowds as he enters Roodepan township where a meeting with Free was called off (AFF photo

did not make much impression on the Bophuthatswana defense forces." South Afri-can Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha said later.

"I hope this is a very good lesson to Eugene Terreblanche." he added, referring to the AWB's bellicose leader. President F.W. de Klerk said the right-wing groups had "proved the folly" of

going where they were not It was not the first time Terreblanches's men had been rebuffed by forces they white South African soldiers opened fire on AWB members trying to prevent Mr. De Klerk from speaking in their town. Three AWB men were killed, despite Mr. Terreblanche's claim the military would support him in a showdown against Mr. De Klerk's reforms.

claimed were allies. In 1991,

The murder of the wounded right-wingers Friday, captured by television cameras. will likely galvanise white extremists to further hatred of blacks, making any lasting alliance with Mr. and his Kwazulu g all the more unlikely

Even if the two manage to stick together and preserve the remnants of the Freedom Alliance. Mr. Mangope's capitulation underscores the burgeoning impatience of disenfranchised blacks demanding a say in their future.

The brutal snub of the AWB is just another instance of the inability of whites to halt the transition to black

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Incomes fall in Africa, if some states improve

governments and the bank or its sister organisation, the International Monetary Fund, in return for loans. The object is to improve their economic position and, in the case of the bank, to reduce poverty.

The bank is the world's biggest source of aid loans, committing about \$25 billion a

But aid is not enough, nor is policy reform, said Edward Jaycov, the bank's vice president for Africa. No country was ever developed by foreign aid alone, he told a news conference in presenting the report. Proper investment ineducation and better government are needed.

"On the one hand, African countries underspend in the sectors that are a priority for development - such as health and education," the report said.

"On the other hand, the overspend on wages, the military, and subsidies to public enterprises.

Mr. Jaycox said too much of the health spending goes for curing disease, including hospitals in big cities, and not pitals in big cities, and not enough on prevention. In

education, he found too much money going for big stipends to university students and too littie for elementary schools.

Of 26 countries the study ranked as improving their policies, six had the best improvement of incomes: Ghana, Tanzania, Gambia, Burkina Faso. Nigeria and Zimbabwe, But their average incomes are still small. Zimbabwe's was the highest: \$570 in 1992.

Ms. Jones said the most important thing an African government can do is to keep its money at a realistic exchange rate with the dollar and other hard currencies. A low rate for the local currency means more sales of local goods in other countries - making prices of exports more competitive.

Bigger sales provide the country with foreign currency needed to buy spare parts and other goods, increasing both production and consumption. the report said.

She said low inflation and low budget deficits come next The report also favours higher prices for agricultural products and lower taxes for farmers, who comprise the largest income group in Africa.

House passes \$1.5 trillion Clinton budget

WASHINGTON (R) - The House of Representatives Friday passed President Clinton's \$1.5 trillion budget which contains strict spending limits that leave little room for administration initiatives.

The 222-164 vote was along strict party lines. No Republicans voted for it.

The budget, little changed from the way Mr. Clinton proposed it for the 1995 fiscal year starting Oct. 1, will go to the Senate. It does not require a presidential signature because it only sets limits on internal congressional rules.

Mr. Clinton's plan has stringent spending limits. So although the president offered spending initiatives in the budget, as he had pledged to do, they shrank to a tiny portion of the spending plan.

The president commended the House for its action, saying in a written statement that he and Congress "are building a stronger economy for today and a future of opportunity for our children."
"This budget continues to

bring down the deficit and makes needed investments in our people and in our eco-

ited Arab Emirates UAE),

seeking new export outlets for

its products, has applied to join

the General Agreement on

Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the

official news agency WAM has

"The GATT agreement will

have a great impact on de-

veloping countries. We have to

prepare for this agreement...

and increase cooperation

among Gulf and Arab countries." UAE minister of plan-

ning, Sheikh Humaid Bin

Ahmad Al Mualla, said in his

annual report on the economy.

Sheikh Al Mualla said Gulf

Arab states should increase re-

gional investment and unify

GATT membership has long

been a condition for closer ties

with other world trading

groups such as the European

Union with whom the six-

member GCC is negotiating a

Economists in the UAE said

joining GATT would open up

markets for the UAE's pet-

free-trade agreement.

their tariffs.

nomy," he said. "Our commitment to fiscal discipline and targeted investments is paying off in stronger economic growth and job creation."

Constrained by the spending rules, Mr. Clinton proposed initiatives of only \$4.1 billion in outlays and the House cut them to \$3.7 billion.

His initiatives include \$36 million for community development financial institutions, \$207 million for mod-. ernising the Internal Revenue Service, \$4 million for the Job Corps, \$11 million for drugfree schools and small amounts of money for dozens of other programmes.

Those amounts fade into insignificance against the overall \$1.338 trillion of income, \$175 billion short of the roughly \$1.514 trillion in outlays for fiscal year.

The big outlays in this budget are \$337 billion for social security, \$271 billion for the military, \$214 billion for interest and \$161 billion for

Among those expenditures, only the size of military expenditure was adjusted by the

Bahrain and Qatar hold obser-

Kuwait is a member.

ver status. Of the GCC only

The Emirates Industrial

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 15, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

Bank said in a recent report

that joining GATT would

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A

good day to get ahead in your line of endeavour by using a new approach that you have been

considering for some time but

haven't attempted so far. Gain

the goodwill and cooperation of

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Being conscientious and gearing

yourself more to the expectations

of higher-ups is wise today.

Don't force any issues, through

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Find better self-expression via

new interests so that the future

becomes brighter for you. Relax at home tonight with mate or a

loved one.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

You have the know-how to hand-

le your responsibilities wisely

and quickly, so don't waste time.

or you may find yourself in finan-

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) Find out what is ex-

pected of you by others and state

your aims clearly to them. Try to

please you mate more and happiness will prevail.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Delve right into all the tasks

awaiting your attention instead of wasting time with unimportant matters. Strive for happiness in

you personal and professional life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Contact good friends and

upon anyone.

cial trouble.

UAE applies to join GATT

The military won \$2.4 billion more than the amount agreed to in the five-year, \$500-billion deficit reduction plan passed by Congress last summer. The military can spend the money

in future years. The money was adjusted upwards at the request of Mr. Clinton, after the Pentagon complained that it could not live with the cuts required by the deficit reduction plan.

The House overwhelmingly backed Mr. Clinton's decision to increase military spending Thursday. On Friday, it rejected a more sweeping proposai offered by the congressional Black Caucus, which would have cut military spending \$9 billion in fiscal 1995 and increased money for social programmes.

Armed Services Committee Chairman Ron Dellums, a Callifornia Democrat who is a member of the Black Caucus, argued unsuccessfully the military was getting too much "I have often said that if I

could travel to another country and only read one document to find out about that country I would read one document to

"open new wide possibilities

for the growth of the oil and

petrochemical industries" in

the GCC which should unify

tariffs and economic policies

"to negotiate and compete."

make plans for recreations you

wish to engage in later. Handle business affairs wisely and you

LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-

ber 22) Try to meet the expecta-

tions of family members and

have more harmony at home.

Plan how to gain your finest aims

which you very much desire.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Something you

read in the newspaper can assist

you greatly now. Be sure not to

lose your temper with anyone at

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22

to December 21) Forget fun for

now, and spend more time on

important financial matters. Avoid unnecessary expenditure

of money otherwise it may not be

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

with others and gain favours you will need. An unexpected oppor-tunity could come your way at this time which could be success-

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Contacting advisers you trust and gaining knowledge from them is wise now. Sidestep

one who is making trouble for you today with others.

PISCES: (February 20 to March

20) You have to exert more

effort now to gain your personal aims. Be extra careful in motion

today and avoid possible acci-dent to you and others.

nore cooperative

there when you need it.

this time or it could be bad.

will have success.

find out about that country I would read its budget," Mr. Dellums told the House.

He said someone reading the U.S. budget would find "we are maintaining too large a force for our military needs. threatening our ability to fund other national needs and that will ultimately threaten our security."

In addition to rejecting \$ attempts to increase social spending, the House also rejected a proposal by New York representative Gerald Solomon to achieve \$700 billion in cuts over the next five years and reach a balanced budget.

The House will consider a balanced budget amendment to the constitution Wednesday.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 13, 1994

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day for doing something positive for your close ties who are most special to you and to avoid getting into any controversies that are for the most part unsettelable at the

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Discuss ideas with others, whether close at hand or at a distance, and come to a meeting of minds. Make new and valu-

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can see now how to add to ndance via some new system that is practical and workable. Get the okay of loved one before you proceed.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Discuss a new plan with paraners which will bring more mutual success in the future. A public matter will also benefit you in a current project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Show appreciation to those who have done you many a favour. Take exercises that improve your health and will relieve any pressure.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A special thought for a loved one, mate, brings good results. Avoid one who has a bad temper and could do harm to you physically and emotionally.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) There is new money

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation coming your way. Seek the advice of experts on how best to use it. Social life will be best in the evening for you and mate. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Delve into loftier philo-sophical, studies which can be-nefit you greatly. This can be a

paricularly happy day and even-ing for everyone around you. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Concentrate on improving your financial position so that you need not worry so much. Add to present possessions and get estimates of those

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can gain almost anything you desire now. Get into some group activity later and get good results from the effort which you spend.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Contact experts to make fine new plans for the future so that you become more successful and happy. Get closer with relatives and mate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use your intuition and all is easier for you than usual. Be your gregarious self and get fine results, whether in business or personal matters. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Try to please a bigwig now and you get fine support, benefits. Plan how best to improve conditions in civic and community matters to your favour.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 14, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Morning is the best time for handling boring but necessary tasks as the double moon square to Neptune and Uranus rob the day of much of its vitality and create an obsession with the unusual and unconventional.

ARIES: (March 2), to April 19) Contact higher ups and gain their support for a project you have in mind. Delving into fascinating community matters is wise

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) you have formulated, but this gives you the needed time to perfect details so be patient all will work out for the best.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't be unpleasant with one who is unable to meet a promise right now. Show others that you can be relied upon to finish any project assigned.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do favours for associates and gain their added coop-eration. You have to exercise patience in handling a civic mat-

ter today. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You may find it hard to get started on your tasks today, but persevere and you get much accomplished. Feel alive and alert to all which

happens today. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are now able to enjoy recreations that you've had little time for in the past. You have creative ideas that need expression to get across.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Attend to those duties that must be done early in the day for best results. Show more interest in outside activities for gaining success. SCORPIO: (October 23 to

November 21) Talks with associates can produce excellent results now. You are able to communicate very well with others today and be able to get you point

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study your money situation well and take steps to improve it. Be sure to keep important promises you have made to other people.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are thinking very clearly now and you easily advance in your line of endeavour. Stop wasting precious time and get all things done which must be done.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Engage in profit-able activities early in the day so you will have time for recreation later. Be more optimistic about

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Contact a close who has good ideas to give you. Follow your intuition when dealing with others and get excellent results to

metals shine, fresh te, analysts say

ing support for the homeland's beleaguered hardline leader Lucas Mangope.

South African troops in armoured vehicles also rolled into the capital Mmabatho at dawn after a night of riots and looting by anti-government demonstrators demanding the homeland's reincorporation into South Africa.

South Africa mines over 70 per cent of the world's plati-

Gold and silver fixed at fiveweek highs of \$387.10 and \$544.50 cents an ounce respectively, compared to previous closes of \$385.15 and 537

Analysts who study past price performance to gauge future trends say gold could rise

"it's been marking time for months. We could be on our way if bullion gets over major resistance at \$390," said David

cutting on unsold aircraft.
The loss compared with a

slim 20 million guilder (\$10.4

Fokker, 51 per cent owned

by Germany's giant industrial

group Daimler-Benz, said it

was unable to make a forecast

for how 1994'sd results would

develop, but did not expect the

aviation market to recover un-

By Harris

til 1996 at the earliest.

million) profit for 1992.

Sneddon, analyst at Investment Research of Cambridge

Even so, dealers said the gold market was very nervous. Earlier this week, many in the market were getting ready to see the price slump below

"About 80 per cent of the markei participants were taken by surprise, not so much by the move but by the way it moved." one dealer said. referring to the speed of Thursday's price rise.

Rumours about the Whitewater affair plaguing President Clinton were blamed for weakening confidence in the Washington administration and raising gold's status as a safe haven investment.

But dealers in Europe . tended to play down the factor. Only last year gold soared dramatically from a seven-year

Fokker, one of the smallest

of the world's airline manufac-

turers, had for years continued

to produce aircraft even

though cash-strapped airlines

sharply cut back their purch-

ases. Unsold aircraft with un-

realistic book values piled up

at the company's premises and

rochemical and industrial exports, but it may have to tighten enforcement of key laws low of \$326 to a high of \$409 such as those on intellectual property rights.

The UAE application folinilspins into big loss lows the lead of fellow Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) member Saudi Arabia which applied last year to join the world trade body.

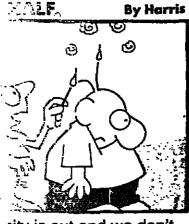
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Jordan Times

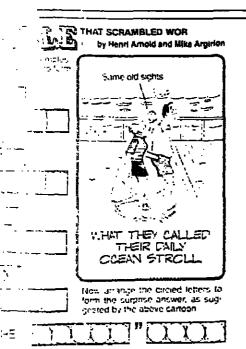
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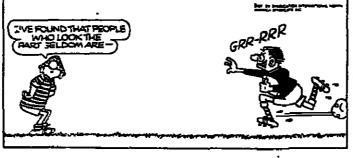








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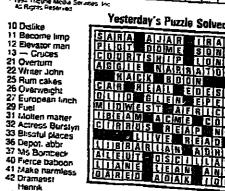


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THE Daily Crossword by Dorothea E. Shipp





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Morocco predicts 7% growth

RABAT (R) - Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammad Sagou forecast growth of seven per cent this year after two bad years caused by serious droughts which cut the cereal harvest by more than half.

At a midnight news conference, he said, "The indications are that with the prospect of a good harvest this year we can forecast growth of seven per

Droughts were mainly responsible for zero growth last year and negative growth of four per cent in 1992. Widespread and plentiful winter rains have raised hopes of a bumper harvest this season.

"The government's (1994) objectives are to keep the treasury deficit to 1.5 per cent of GDP, the current account deficit to 2.1 per cent of GDP and an inflation rate of four per cent." Mr. Sagou said. Inflation was 5.2 per cent last

He said foreign exchange reserves rose 13.3 per cent to \$3.8 billion at the end of December, equivalent to seven months imports.

He added that the government expected to raise \$368 million from its ongoing privatisation programme, compared to \$226 million last year.

He said the foreign debt was now \$21 billion or 78 per cent of gross domestic product and servicing it would represent 35 per cent of export earnings this year, or the same ratios as in 1992 before rescheduling.

Japanese consortium to give Iran \$2b credits

NICOSIA (R) — A consortium of Japanese companies will extend Iran's central bank \$2 billion in credit to repay Iran's debts to Japanese firms, the Iran news agency IRNA quoted the head of the central bank as saying

IRNA quoted Mohammad Hussein Adeli as saying the interest rate of the credits was five per cent to be paid annually. The total credit will be paid off over 3-12 years starting in 1995, he added.

Mr. Adeli did not name the Japanese consortium and it was not clear if it included companies that were owed money by Iran. Japanese officials were not immediately available for comment.

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Mr. Adeli said the Japanese agreement followed a similar accord reached between Iran and Germany two weeks ago.

Mr. Adeli said such agreements will reduce Iran's debt arrears of \$8 billion "as a result of heavy investments in infrastructural projects during the first five year development plan (1987-1992)."

Mr. Adeli said a sharp decline in oil prices and oil revenues lower than those forecast in the first five year plan made it impossible for Iran to

repay its debts. IRNA quoted him as saying Iran had debt repayment problems for political reasons as

"The lack of financial cooperation on the part of countries with which Iran had contracts on political ground, created some problems for Iranian companies forcing them to make their purchases either in cash or on short term credits,"

he explained. The agreements with Japan and Germany would halve Iran's debt arrears, Mr. Adeli

IMF praises Uganda

KAMPALA (R) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief in East Africa, Robert Shaver, has commended Uganda's economic recovery and urged the East African stage to stick to tough donor-led re-forms, officials said. They said Mr. Shaver told President Yoweri Museveni the recovery of this poor but potentially-rich nation once dubbed "the Pearl of Africa" depended on an IMF-led seven year-old programme. "Uganda is one of the few African countries where the reforms are working tremendously well, and it is in the country's best interests they continue," officials, from the ministry of finance and economic planning, quoted him as saving.

Tunisia's trade deficit increases by 13%

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's trade deficit in 1993 increased by 13 per cent over 1992, according to statistics published by the ministry of economy.

The deficit rose to 2.418

million dinars (about \$2.418 million) from 2.139 million dinars (\$2.139) in 1992, it said.

Most of the deficit was with European countries. Tunisia's main trade partners. It was 1.416 million dinars (\$1.416 million) in 1993 from 1.272 million (\$1.272 million) in

Exports earnings amounted to nearly 3.818 million dinars (\$3.818 million) in 1993 from 3.550 million dinars (\$3.550 million) in 1992, an increase of

Imports costs amounted to

6.236 million dinars (\$6.236 million) in 1993 from 5.689 dinars (\$5.689 million) in 1992. an increase of 13 per cent.

The state Centre de Promotion des Exportations says imports increased faster than exports, partly because of exceptional expenditure for equipment to build Tunisia's leg of a new gas pipeline gas from Algeria to Italy for an amount of 96 million dinars (\$96 mil-

During 1993, exports earnings covered 61.2 per cent of the cost of imports, compared to 62.4 per cent in 1992.

Euro Disney sees '94 losses despite refinancing

PARIS (R) - Cash-strapped Theme Park Euro Disney has warned shareholders that more losses are on the way in its 1994 fiscal year even if a financial restructuring is agreed by its banks and parent, Walt Disney

In its annual report, obtained by Reuters Friday ahead of Euro Disney's annual meeting on Monday, Chairman Philippe Bourguignon said there would be losses in both the first and second haives of its financial year, which ends on Sept. 30.

"The management thinks that if the restructuring is done, these measures should improve the financial situation of the group. Even so, the group should be in loss for the first and second half of the 1994 fiscal year," Mr. Bourguignon wrote.

Euro Disney crashed to a 5.3 billion franc (\$926.4 million) loss in the year to Sept. 30, 1993 and is now in crucial talks with its 63 banks and Walt Disney Co. on a plan to restructure its mammoth 21 billion franc (\$3.67 billion) debt.

They have until March 31 to reach a decision. Walt Disney has given that date as a deadline when it will stop funding its ailing 49 per cent-owned

But even if a deal is made, Mr. Bourguignon said the package could not be put in place in time to significantly cut Euro Disney's interest costs on debt during its current fiscal year.

"The management does not think a financial restructuring can be put in place in time to obtain a significant reduction in financial costs for the 1994 fiscal year compared with those encountered in the 1993 fiscal year," he wrote in the

He said the economic climate was still too uncertain for him to give short-term fore-

Bankers are hoping they can agree between them on an outline package to restructure Euro Disney's debt by the March 31 deadline but shareholders are unlikely to get much out of Mr. Bourguignon on the talks during Monday's

Although Mr. Bourguignon is likely to face a multitude of questions from shareholders on Monday, he is likely to limit his replies to "progress is being made," analysts and bankers

"It is currently too early to speculate on possible outcomes of these negotiations," he wrote in the report.

Mr. Bourguignon admitted that Euro Disney had been caught out by a number of unexpected elements during its first year of operations. The park opened in April 1992.

"This first full year of operations has shown the seasonal character of our activity is even more marked than expected, with about two thirds of admittances to the Theme Park sold during the second half of the year," Mr. Bourguignon He said the economic cli-

mate was very different from that anticipated in the park's preliminary studies and visits. Hotel occupancy and spending at the park were weaker than In view of the company's

financial situation and the economic climate, plans to build a second movie-related park at Euro Disneyland had to be put on hold until the economic climate improved, Mr. Bourguignon said. The second park was initially

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plans new incentives to boost exports

Turkey

ANKARA (R) - Turkey is planning to introduce new export incentives this month following a further deterioration in its trade balance, treasury officials said Friday.

The foreign trade deficit widened 61.5 per cent to \$838 million in January over the same month of last year, the state Institute of Statistics said. Exports rose only 3.4 per cent to \$1.3 billion while imports surged 20.2 per cent to \$2.2 billion.

The treasury officials said they had submitted proposals for new incentives, including energy subsidies to export industries, to Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's coalition

Manufacturers would pay 25 per cent less for natural gas, liquified petroleum gas and water. They would also be exempted from import taxes and customs duties on fuel oil

An overvalued lira and economic recession in Turkey's main trading partners have slowed exports since 1990. The 1993 trade deficit was

\$14.08 billion, up 72.6 per cent from \$8.16 billion in 1992. Exports rose 4.3 per cent to \$15.35 billion and imports 28.7 per cent to \$29.43 billion.

The export-to-import ratio, a key indicator of a country's trade performance, fell to 52.1 per cent, its lowest since 1980.

The fira, weakened by a financial crisis, has lost 28.6 per cent of its dollar value this

U.S.-Japan phone pact ends 'ten years of frustration'

dor to Japan Walter Mondale Saturday hailed an accord on a cellular phone dispute between Washington and Tokyo, saying "we end 10 years of frustra-

Mr. Mondale brushed aside suggestions that the phone row was a minor item when weighed against Japan's overall trade surplus of about \$130 He told a late night news

conference it was significant that an agreement had been reached. Japan's Post and Telecommunications Minister Takenori Kanzaki told the news conference he hoped the deal would

help improve relations between the two countries. The agreement between Motorola and Nippon Idou Tsushin Corp (IDO) was struck only five days before a deadline for likely trade sanctions by the United States.

Mr. Mondale said the agreement would create jobs in the United States and Japan and would introduce competition. "Everybody is going to be-

Japan's deputy posts and telecommunications minister Masahito Tani said IDO would have to invest 62 billion yen (\$590 million) to implement an accord giving Motorola increased access to the Tokyo-Nagoya celiular phone market.

Mr. Tani told a news conference shareholders of IDO including Japan's largest carmaker, Toyota, wanted to help IDO to raise funds, Toyota holds about 13 per cent of

The phone row was the immediate flashpoint in a larger trade stand-off between the

world's two biggest economies.

Motorola Vice-President Arnold Brenner said the accord with IDO on access to Japan's cellular phone market would lead to increased earnings worth "several hundred million dollars."

Mr. Brenner told a news conference that he was happy with the contents of the agreement. "We are certainly satisfied with the idea of better access to the market. We certainly have achieved that. Both Motorola and the U.S. govern-

ment are happy."

A glum IDO Vice President Toshio Enomoto told the same news conference that there were some benefits for his company in the deal but added that IDO would likely suffer a deterioration in earnings in fiscal 1995/ 96 ending March 31.

A U.S. embassy statement said Japan would monitor and oversee construction and deployment of a North American analogue cellular phone system by December 1995.

The government of Japan will take all available measures to ensure compliance with these commitments. This agreement demonstrates that the U.S. and Japan can work together to achieve real market access in Japan," the statement

The dispute erupted on Feb. 15 after Motorola and IDO failed to reach an agreement on capital investment, and the U.S. firm complained that it had been deprived of a chance to boost its share in the most lucrative areas in Japan. On Friday, Motorola and

IDO hammered out a

framework that would allow Motorola to sharply expand its access to Japan's cellular phone market.

Under the deal, IDO will construct 159 base stations for Motorola-system cellular phones by late 1995, a year and a half earlier than IDO's original plan.

That would give Motorola 269 stations in the densely populated Tokyo-Nagoya corridor, which would fulfil most of Motorola's request for expanded infrastructure, an IDO spokesman said Thursday.

Industry analysts say the accord would force IDO to make costly new investments over the next 18 months, double IDO's original plan, putting further strain on its fragile

IDO is capitalised at 11.4 billion yen (\$108 million) and is already burdened by longterm and short-term borrowings of 230 billion yen (\$2.19 billion).

Since it was set up in 1987, IDO has spent 280 billion yen (\$2.66 billion) to expand the service area for Motorola.

Spain leads Europe in unemployment

MADRID (AP) — Spain leads its richer European neighbours in one economic field, but doesn't boast about it: None of the others comes close to its unemployment rate of 18 per

Spain's economy was a star performer after it joined the European Union - then the European Community - in 1986, but has spent the last two

years in a tailspin. Jose Maria Infante, a marketing specialist, was fired seven months ago when his

company lost several clients. Mr. Infante, 44 and divorced, now supports himself and his 13-year-old son on a monthly unemployment check equal to about \$1,150.

The National Employment Office now lists 2.77 million people as unemployed, or 17.96 per cent of the work force, up 250,000 from a year ago and haif a million more

A quarterly survey by the National Statistics Institute, in which interviewers visit 60,000 households, puts the total unemployed at 3.68 million, or 23.9 per cent. By some estimates, the

underground economy accounts for nearly one-fourth of Spain's gross domestic product, the total output of goods and services. Many employers are said to

be holding off hiring until the passage of new legislation, possibly this summer, that would make it easier to fire, transfer or retrain workers. Meanwhile, work is hard to "I look in want ads, ask friends, I go to warehouses, said Francisco Javier Garcia, 27, who lost his job in January as a deliveryman at a trucking company. "They tell me they need to fire more people."

Like a generation of Spaniards who flocked to menial jobs in northern Europe in the 1960s and 1970s, he is writing to hear from a country by that might send him about as a waiter or chauffeur.

Air France rescue may consumers in long run

PARIS (R) — Air France's rescue plan may anger its rivals but the ultimate winners could be consumers as the airline cuts costs to compete in Europe's deregulated "open skies" market, analysts said

Chairman Christian Blanc has announced a plan to turn around the loss-making airline with a big restructuring to ladt Aif France to the mass market of the 1990s. He has asked for a state injection of 20 billion francs (\$3.5 billion) to get the airline in shape for privatisation but has pledged to cut costs by slimming the workforce and its fleet of

"It will bring one of the European majors back into the competitive fray," said an analyst at a big French bank. Mr. Blanc wants to boost

productivity by 30 per cent over three years, cut staff costs by freezing pay and shedding 5,000 jobs over that period. The future Air France will be composed of profit centres and a smaller head office.

Analysts expect it ultimately to cut prices to compete after the 1997 deregulation of the European airlines market.

"Airline companies can no longer control prices." Air France said in a statement Thursday.

In a decade, it said, air transport had completely changed. Airlines were no longer offering a luxury service to a captive market but were now in a new age of mass consump-

From 1997, the European Union wants currently highly restricted routes to be opened up to competition so airlines can offer passengers more flex-ibility and cheaper fares. In future airlines with equal

or lower costs will be able to offer flights where presently only one carrier is allowed. For example, a person in France going to the Far East may find it cheaper to fly from a regional airport on a non-Air-France flight to Amsterdam to pick up

a long-haul carrier there, rather than start from Paris. Analysts say however that Air France still has quite a long way to go before it can really compete in a free market.

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While the Blanc plan tries to catch up with competitors such as British Airways, KLM and Lufthansa which have already acted to cut costs, it does not prepare the airline for the changes in market structure once deregulation really hits. senior analyst Campbell Poole

at Mitsubishi Bank in Paris

The future market will intensify competition both inside the French domestic market and across Europe, and profitability will be even more difficult under those conditions, analysts said.

In the meantime Air France has to win over both its employees and the European Commission to its plan.

Trade unions have generally responded positively to the plan although the CGT, the second biggest union at the airline, said it was unwilling to sign, denouncing as blackmail the government's decision to link the recapitalisation with approval by employees of the restructuring plan. The unions have until March 28 to decide a final response to the plan.

The plan also needs to meet strict European Union (EU) competition rules. The EU wants to cut subsidies, which it says distort competition in the skies. A panel of EU "wise men" in February recommended a strict diet of competition and an easing of state aid to the sector.

Donors give Cambodia \$773m aid

TOKYO (R) -- Major donor nations pledged a total of \$773 million in emergency aid to Cambodia Friday after an international meeting highlighted the country's ongoing war against poverty, land mines

and banditry. With the war over, Cambodia is struggling to build up its fledging economy almost from "It would have been in vain,

in fact, to have considered as 'global' any peace process which did not address the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia," first prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said in his closing

The second International Committee on the Reconstruction of Cambodia (ICROC) grouped 31 donor nations and 12 international bodies. The next meeting will be held in Paris in 1995.

Participants said the \$773 million figure had been inflated by repledging of funds committed at two previous meetings on Cambodia in Paris and Tokyo, but which had not yet been disbursed.

Previous pledged include \$880 million promised at the Tokyo meeting in June 1992 and \$119 million at the first ICROC in Paris last Septem-

Of the \$773 million total, \$486 million was earmarked for 1994, \$271 million for 1995 and an additional \$15.77 million for land mine clearance.

Donor nations heaped praise onthe economic achievements of Cambodia's new government, formed after last May's U.N.-sponsored elections. Inflation has tumbled while tax revenues have risen and the exchange rate has stabilised.



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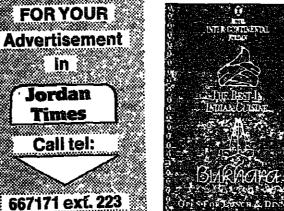
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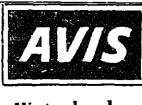
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Se Klerk orders crackdown on homeland

Black, white troops try to Stabilise Bophuthatswana

IOHANNESBURG (R) = trondent F.W. De Klerk Saturday ordered a crackdown in the Bophuthatswana homeland after its leader refused to 13). Assurances of free pointeal activity in the remore to South Atticals all-race election in

Mr. De Klerk said in a statethat homeland leader Tuest Mangope, who agreed riday to confest the election. " of refused to give assurances. or a letton chief Johann Krieg-

Take government accordingeves that very firm action a new required to ensure sta-Cart within Bophuthatswanaat 2 to ensure that tree and fair e cenous will take place table bout the termony. Mr. De Klerk said.

Mr. Mangope agreed to enter the election race Friday, applicating to a popular upreare in his nominally independent homeland after scores of perhaphed been killed.

Mr. Kriegler, chairman of the Independent Electoral Constitution (IEC), was sent to the agental Mmabatho to seek assurances on arrangements for campaigning ahead of the election.

Sir. De Klerk said he had to'd chief government negottall? Roelf Meyer to ruse the issen as a matter of urgency at a special management committee receting of the Transitional Example Council overseeing rreparations for the election. Plack and white troops worker together Saturday to

Bophuthatswana, where up to 67 people including three white South African neo-Nazis died in noung.

President F.W. De Klerk ordered his white-led troops into the nominally independent homel and Friday after erisis talks with African National Congress (ANC) leader Nel-

South African and Bophuthatswana soldiers and police moved into the centre of the twin towns of Mmabatho and Matikeng in force Saturday to restore order after 72 hours of rioting and looting.

Many of the South Africans wore beliefs and carried automatic weapons. But an officer who declined to be identified told Reuters they were under orders not to shoot.

Camouflage-clad South African riot police worked with colleagues from the Bophuthatswara police and army to arrest looters trying to grab anything left in the shops. "We are the good guys new," one riot control officer told Reuters. "The BOP police

are the only ones allowed to shook here. Asked what he thought of the South African intervention in Bophuthatswana, 53-year-old Dawood Nisweng said he was delighted. ... as long as they

don't shoot us.' Kerneels Kok. 33, said he felt safe about walking in the streets for the first time this week. "Most people are very

In Pretoria, Law and Order

Minister Hernus Kriel invoked emergency police powers in 52 towns and cities, including Pretoria, Bloemfontein and parts of Johannesburg.

Spokesman Craig Kotze said the action, giving police special powers of search and arrest. was a response to the bloodshed in Bophuthatswana.

Mr. Mandela condemned the emergency measures Saturday and told supporters at an election rally he would protest to Mr. De Klerk about them. ANC candidate Tokyo Sevwale told the crowd: "We will

defy these powers. Officials in the homeland declined Saturday to say where Mr. Mangope was.

A South African official said up to 67 people might have died in riots this week against Mr. Mangope's boycott of the poll, which will end his control of the tribal territory comprising seven pockets of land north, west and south of Johannesburg.

"We cannot confirm these figures until our own people have been able to spread out on the ground... but the figures seem plausible." the govern-ment official said.

Hospital officials interviewed by Reuters were aware of about 11 people killed in the rioting, including three white neo-Nazis shot in an ambush by Bophuthatswana troops.

Reuter photographer Kevin Carter said the men, members of the militant Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB). were killed as they lay bleeding

and pleading for help from black soldiers, who had earlier ordered reporters to leave the area.

"I heard the wounded AWB men crying, 'please God help us. Get us some medical help Then I saw the soldier shoot about six rounds into the three AWB men." Mr Carter said.

At least three blacks were killed shortly afterwards in drive-by shootings by whitewingers leaving the town. Some of them escorted by soldiers and police.

About 5,000 heavily-armed white civilians moved into the homeland Thursday and early Friday to prop Mr. Mangope up in the face of pro-election protests in which scores of

stores were burned and looted. Mr. Mangope has ruled Bophuthatswana and its two million people with an iron fist since Pretoria created the homeland in 1977 under its discredited apartheid policy. He survived a coup attempt in 1988 when South African troops restored him to power.

Former South African Defence chief General Constand Viljoen resigned Saturday as a co-leader of the whiteseparatist Afrikaner People's Front (AVF) to participate in April's all-race election. the South African Press Associa-

Gen. Viljoen announced his resignation at a news conference following his decision late Friday to break ranks with the AVF and register a party for the April 26-28 election.



A Bophuthatswana resident salutes South African the embassy in Mafikeng, in South Africa's only Defence Force (SADF) soldiers arriving to guard recognised independent homeland (AFP photo)

Korean talks fail to make progress

SEOUL (R) - North and South Korea failed to make progress in talks Saturday over the North's nuclear programme but Seoul officials said there was a glimmer of hope that Pyongyang would soon be more flexible.

The South and the North met for the third time this month at their cold war border, exactly one year after Pyongyang sparked international concern by threatening to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty

(NPT) But the two sides could not agree terms for the exchange of presidential envoys, which Seoul hopes will ease tensions on the Korean peninsula and help solve the nuclear impasse. Song Young-Dae, the South's chief delegate to the talks, said he felt an easing of

exchange at Saturday's meeting.
"The North softened its four-point demand which has been the main hurdle in previous contacts," he said after hours of talks at the frontier

Northern conditions for the

post of Panmunjom. The four preconditions for

tually been withdrawn." North Korea's chief delegate Park Yong-Su said its demands, which Pyongyang ear-lier maintained had to be resolved before any exchange. could now be discussed while

the exchange took place. The North demands the South scrap "nuclear war exercises" with Washington and stop trying to resolve the nuclear issue in concert with its Western allies.

It also demands the South abandon plans to deploy Patriot missiles and that President Kim Young-Sam retract a statement he made accusing the North of developing atomic

Mr. Song told reporters the North's change of position could be seen as a dropping of their demands.

But other Seoul officials said the fact there was no agreement in Saturday's talks would make it difficult for the United States to meet its promise to hold-level talks with North Korea on March 21 in Geneva.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci, who is visiting Seoul, said the envoy exchange still remained a key condition for the high-level

meeting with Pyongyang. "At this point, we are hopeful there will be an exchange of envoys before March 21 and we will have an opportunity to meet in Geneva," Mr. Gallucci

told a news conference. Seoul officials, suggesting the Geneva meeting could be delayed, say the March 21 deadline was in itself not very important.

But Mr. Gallucci declined to speculate over any postponement, saying his hopes were still pinned on a further round of border talks between North and South which has been slated for Wednesday.

South Korean news reports said Mr. Gallucci had agreed in a meeting with Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo to a postponement of the Geneva talks until the envoy exchange had been agreed and that they agreed it would now be difficult for the two Koreas to make the deadline.

Washington and Seoul also say a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must be allowed to complete its inspection of seven nuclear sites in the North before the United States can discuss better relations.

British woman sends serial killer \$6,000

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The Letters (5)

LONDON (R) - A British woman sent American serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer £4.000 (\$6,000) but refused to say why, the Times of London said Saturday. The newspaper identified the woman as Debbie Watson, who lives in the Cheisea district of London. It said she had been sending him money since last May. Dahmer is serving 15 consecutive life terms in a U.S. state prison after admitting to a decadelong orgy of murder. Necrophilia and cannibalism in which he killed 17 young men and boys before being arrested in 1991. "You would not believe the half of what he has written to me about." newspaper quoted Ms. Watson as saying. It said Ms. Watson. who shares an apartment with her boyfriend, refused to say why she had sent money to one of the world's most notorious killers."Why don't you get in touch with some of the other people who send him stuff?" she said. The Milwaukee Journal newspaper reported recently that people from all over the world had been sending Dahmer money and gifts. The newspaper said the largest amount had come from an unnamed woman in Chelsea. "The families are outraged that any money should be paid to Dahmer. They think these people are sick," said lawyer

Court dismisses snoring charge against woman

Thomas Jacobson.

WOODLAND, Calif. (AP) -A court dismissed a charge against a woman whose loud snoring allegedly kept a neighbour awake and violated a noise law. The charge against Sari Zayed was dropped at the prosecution's request. A criminal prosecution of this issue would not be in the best interests of justice," said Mark Johnson, a spokesman for the district attorney's office. Police cited the 30-year-old woman Jan. 31 at 1:30 a.m. for allegedly violating the noise ordinance in the city of Davis. Officers said they had hoped to avoid issuing the citation but that Ms. Zayed's neighbour Chris Doherty insisted. "My only goal was to get some sleep," said Mr. Doherty, 23.

Duck egg wedding lands revellers in hospital

BUCHAREST (R) - Duck egg dishes at a Romanian wedding party in a northern village proved too much of a treat for 61 revellers, who ended up with food poisoning after overeating the delicacy, a newspaper said. Eighteen people from Bocicau near Hungary were in hospital with severe food poisoning, and a further 43 villagers suffered milder poisoning, the daily Adevarul said. Doctors said the partygoers unwisely gorged them-

selves on dishes made from duck eggs, seen as a delicacy.

Judge sets trial date for

Hollywood madam

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A judge rejected arguments that alleged Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss was the victim of discriminatory prosecution and ordered her to stand trial on May 26. Superior Court Judge Judith Champagne said there was no evidence to support Ms. Fleiss's argument that prostitution laws were administered unfairly against women. Ms. Fleiss' attorney. Anthony Brooklier, argued that no male client of a prostitute had ever been prosecuted under the state's felony statute. He said he would appeal. Mr. Brooklier waved a binder containing the names of men identified to a grand jury as Ms Fleiss customers. None of them. he said, were charged with wrongdoing. "This is a boys club operation." he said. They don't prosecute men of substance who... come from all walks of life, including the film business, ever." Ms. Fleiss, 27. is accused of operating a pricey call girl ring that catered to wealthy men, including movie industry bigshots. She did not attend Friday's hearing. Judge Champagne said the felony statue was enacted in the late 19th century to combat white slavery. It states that "every person who purchases, or pays any money, or other valuable thing, for any person for the purpose of prostitution... or the purpose of placing such person, for immoral purposes, in any house or place against

Bosnian Serbs warn U.N. on Turkish troops

JEVO (7) - Bearies Series warned the United Naucus Saturday that sending Turkish troops to Bosnia as pull-excepers would lead to exciation of the avilwar even if they were deployed only on Muslim and Creat territory.

Someilo Krajisnik, a leader of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic, said the troops were unacceptable because of Turkey's 500-year occupation of Bosnia under the Ottoman

The U.N. has rejected a LUTNISH OTHER OF LIURI SOLDIERS but is under pressure to relent Secretse of the need for almost 12,000 additional peacekeepers to supervise ceasefire in Sarajevo and central Bosnia. Mr. Krajisnik told Jagodina Radio in Serbia: "Our stance is

Prolutely negative. Turkey and to occupy these territorin. It is completely biased and salled for air strikes against Serie positions.

"The presence of Turkish assign in Bosnia, even along Creat-Muslim demarcation innes, is not welcome and would mean a further escalation of the war."

Bosnian Muslims and Creats have agreed to the deployment of Turkish U.N. forces and the gridging response of U.N. or rathes to appeals for more men is threatening the future

Force (UNPROFOR) needed 111,1530 more troops for ceaseand duty on top of the 13,000 already in place.

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Nr. Li Bathy rejected U.S.

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close that China's most

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time only if Bennie shows

"overall, significant progress"

United States' human rights

concepts," Mr. Li told Mr.

Christopher According to

Foreign Ministry spokesman

Will Jimmin who spoke at a

news conference, "history has

proven it is futile to apply

Ji Washington pulls MFN

status, Mr. Ur said. The Un-

pressure against China."

"China will never accept the

en human rights.

enotits can be renewed in-

la man rights comparence.

An estira 1,590 would be required if the U.N. also created a safe haven in the northern Muslim town of Maglaj. which is being heavily shelled by Serbs and has been completely isolated since last Octo-

So far just under 4,000 troops have been pledged, in-cluding the 1,000 Turks.

Countries have been reluctant to offer more forces while the United States refuses to

Dr. Ghali, in an effort to sour consciences and rescue the brightest prospect yet for peace after almost two years of fighting in Bosnia, said in his

"It would be a tragedy for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina if the present opportunity were lost for lack of rescurees.

* Author-controlled Saraievo Radio said Serbs attacked Maglaj again Saturday with artillery and missiles.

U.N. peacekeepers caught the Bosnian Defence Council (HYC) trying to smuggle troops into the Lasva Valley in central Bosnia Friday abroad a medical helicopter in violation of the consettre.

British U.N. soldiers near the Bila Nova Flospital imbeard and flown away.

agreement on forging a postwar tederation in Bosnia.

talks so far and I hope they will be fruitful today... We will discuss the future strategy of negotiations with the Serbs." Mr. Krajisnik, in his Jagodina Radio interview, made clear

the Bosnian Serbs would not ioin any federation with Muslims and Croats but were willing to negotiate on future rela-'We do not accept federa-

tion but do accept talks on some new future ways of relations between Serbs, Croats and Muslims." he added.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic says a U.S.sponsored Croat-Muslim Federation would cover 60 per cent of Bosnia - now largely controlled by Serb forces and comprise up to nine ethnic cantons.

In an interview published Friday, Mr. Izetbegovic said the proposed binational state would probably be composed of cantons draw roughly along communal boundaries but providing for the return of expel-

led inhabitants "It's not yet known, but I believe there will be from seven to nine cantons covering the area populated by Croat or Muslim majorities (before the war) - some 60 per cent of Bosnia," the Croatian weekly Nedjeljna Dalmacija quoted the Muslim president as

saying. Since the war in Bosnia erupted almost two years ago, Serb forces have seized control of roughly 70 per cent of its territory. A realignment of territorial control along the lines Mr. Letbegovic suggested implies large-scale Serb with-

China defies U.S. at talks on human rights

Gaidar, Zhirinovsky attack government

MOSCOW (R) - The most famous reformer and the most strident nationalist in Russia briefly joined forces in a twopronged attack on centrist government policy at a stormy

Friday parliament session. It is unusual for reform architect Yegor Gaidar and Vladimir Zhirinovsky to agree on anything. Mr. Zhirinovsky's aggressively xenophobic programme won him much of the electoral support Mr. Gaidar had hoped for in December elections.

But the two men's views on how to correct government mistakes quickly diverged.

Mr. Zhirinovsky told deputies Russia would only be saved from new crises in spring and autumn if the cabinet was thrown out and his right-wing Liberal Democratic Party replaced it. It is one of the largest groupings in parliament's lower house but has no ministerial portfolios.

the envoy exchange have vir-Cambodian army advances on Pailin PHNOM PENH (R) - The Cambodian army has advanced to within 10 kilometres of the Khmer Rouge's main base at

said.

Pailin in the west and is poised to attack, military commanders "Everything is set - supplies are ready. Artillery is in position - we're just waiting for orders." a senior Cambodian army commander told

Reuters. Reuters saw four Russianbuilt T-54/55 tanks moving down Route 10 Friday from the regional army headquarters in northwest Battambang to reinforce forward positions

around Pailin. Batteries of 130mm artillery with a range of 25 kilometres are now in position to shell Pailin town, defence analysts many as 7,000 soldiers and "special police" units have been deployed around Pailin by the military, which is anxious to avenge last month's loss of a rebel base at Anlong Veng. 300 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh.

Unconfirmed reports said as

Government forces had cuptured the rebel base but lost it in a Feb. 24 counterattack.

Timber and gem-rich Pailin is the main commercial centre for the rebels, who earn millions of dollars each month from sales to voracious Thai traders.

The town, surrounded by rugged hills, lies close to the Thai border and is the stated military headquarters of the Khmer Rouge, Although U.N. military and foreign defence experts dispute this.

from the government on Oct. 22. 1989, less than a month after Vietnamese troops pulled out of Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge is the last Cambodian faction to hold out

The rebels captured Pailin

against national reconciliation and has unsuccessfully demanded in advisory role in government.

Cambodia's government insists the Khmer Rouge should first declare a ceasefire, open their zones of control and demobilise their estimated 8.(XX)strong guerrilla: army. The Maoist rebels, responsi-

ble for the deaths of one million Cambodians by execution. disease and starvation during a region of terror in the 1970s. say they support a government peace offer but it should be unconditional.

Whitewater has not changed Clinton's rating — poll

NEW YORK (R) — More and more is being said about the whole Whitewater affair lately but Americ as have not let it cloud their approval rating of the president, according to a CBS News/New York Times

The poll said Friday more people in the last month have heard about Whitewater but don't think it is an issue of great importance to the nation. People are withholding their udgment about Mr. Clintons involvement although there are signs that Hillary Rodham

Clinton's popularity is sagging. Fifty per cent approve overall of the way the president is handling his duties while 39 per cent disapprove. Last month, 50 per cent approved and 37 per cent disapproved.

His ratings on foreign policy and the economy are also much the same as last month. The telephone poll of 86?

also found there may be a small Whitewater backlash while 27 per cent were un-

Those surveyed rejected a comparison between Whitewater and Watergate, the scandal over the cover-up of a burglary that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974. Sixty-nine per cent said it was unfair to compare the two. Only 20 per cent of those

asked thought Whitewater was of any importance. Thirty-four per cent believed Mr. Clinton The CBS News/New York

Thursday. The poll has a three The White House charged

tical dividends. "It's pretty clear that there's a very organised effort on the (Capitol) Hill among the Republicans (to make) a political

monstrate that the department was complying "by any stretch of the imagination" with Mr. Fiske's demand for all Whitewater-related docu-

Republicans kept up the pressure on Democrats who control Congress to hold hearings on whether senior administration officials tried to meddle with a federal probe of a failed Arkansas savings and loan and its ties to the land deal known as Whitewater, in which Mr. Clinton and his wife

were investors. "Public hearings offer President Clinton a valuable opportunity to remove the ethical cloud now hanging over the White House," Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said in a speech on the Senate floor.

Mr. Fiske is against congressional hearings fearing they will interfere with his own investigation. Republicans say they are willing to delay them a

investigate Whitewater, a demand he agreed to, and now seek to "make political hay out of this" by appealing for congressional hearings.

mer deputy White House counsel Vince Foster's death scene. Which it said supported the official report that he committed suicide in a park outside Washington last July. Financial markets were

rocked Thursday by rumours that Mr. Foster died somewhere else - in a private apartment in Virginia according to one version - and his it was found,

of Mr. Foster's hand clutching a gun. With his thumb caught in the trigger guard and what it said were powder burns on the hand. It said a complete set of "grim and graphic" photo-

graphs dispelled rumours that occuring with nearly half the few months to give Mr. Fiske issue out of this," said Clinton there was little or no blood at time to do his work but Demopublic — 45 per cent — saying spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers. crats are balking. the scene. the media has spent too much Also Friday, the Treasury Ms. Myers accused Republi-Department turned over some House Banking Committee time on the story. Only 15 per cans of generating the 3,700 pages of documents to Chairman Henry Gonzalez cent said there has been too rumours and condemned news told Mr. Fiske he would not Whitewater special counsel little coverage, while 33 per allow a March 24 hearing on organisations for reporting on interference in China's internal cent said the coverage has been Robert Fiske. But a treasury savings and loan issues to beaffairs without regard to about right. aide said most of the pages them. She singled out rumours More than three in four, or were routine press releases and come a Whitewater witch hunt Chinese law," Mr. Wu quoted started by a newsletter put out or to encroach on Mr. Fiske's 79 per cent, said congressional drafts of congressional Testiby the Washington consulting independent investigation de-Republicans who are criticising топу. firm Johnson Smick, which is Treasury Secretary Lloyd spite Republican pressure for it Mr. Clinton are doing it for run by Republican political oppolitical gain. Only 13 per cent Bentsen told reporters the to focus on Whitewater. "One crative David Smick and witch hunt is enough." the number of documents did not polled said it is because they Manuel Johnson, an official in mean his department was more Texas Democrat wrote in a and abide by Chinese laws "1. care about ethics. Republicans Ronald Reagan's administradeeply involved in the case letter to Mr. Fiske. also agree on that point. tion who was later vice chairthan the White House, which a Mr. Clinton has complained He said Mr. Wei was a cri-The poll showed 33 per cent that Republicans first demanman of the Federal Reserve day earlier had given prosecuof those surveyed had a tayourminal who was still on parole his or her will, is guilty of a ded a special prosecutor to tors just 1,000 pages. Board. able view of Mrs. Clinton. when he met Mr. Shattuck



pounded the helicopter until the 15 Croats were put back on of the ceasefire. U.N. Secretary General la Vicana, Bosnian Prime houtres Chair told the Security Minister Haris Silajdzic and chance in a report that the Croatian Foreign Minister Cotted Nations Protection Mate Granic were close to an

Mr. Granic told reporters: "I am very satisfied with the

ited States will suffer no less than China. . The United States will love its share of the big Chinese market," With China's economy sizrling and trade hes souring. business executives in China. the United States and Hong-Kong tear a trade war it low

MFN tariffs are revoked and

China retainates. The United States now takes a third of all Chinese exports Sur sutter a \$20 billion trade deficit with China second only to its trade cap with Japan. Mr. Constopher has maintained that nothing extraordinary is expected of China. "What we seek is no more than the recognition of the most basic universally recognised

human rights. he told reporters Enday Demonstrating its disdain for Mr. Christopher's human rights message. China defained or harassed several prominent dissidents in the past week. prompting Mr. Christopher to express "deep distaste" for

Chinese actions, Three Western reporters were detained for interrogation for trying to visit with a

dissident labour rights activist

who himself has dropped from Foreign Minister Quan told

Mr. Christopher in an earlier meeting that outsiders had no business pressing China on human rights or linking that issue to trade. Mr. Qian accused Washington's too human rights envoy.

Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck, of violating both good manners and Chinese law by meeting last month with leading dissident Wei Jingsheng. Mr. Shattuck was in Beiging

preparing for Mr. Christopher's visit. When a seasor U.S. administration official came to China to prepare for the visit he took actions which constituted

Mr. Qian as telling Mr. Christ-When U.S. visitors come to China they should show respect for their Chinese hosts

said.

favouurable.

participated in a cover-up. Times poll was conducted Tuesday, Wednesday and

point margin of error. Friday that Republicans were fanning a firestorm over the Whitewater financial controversy in order to reap poliHe said he wanted to de-

ABC Television Friday night

broadcast a photograph of for-

body was moved to the Potomac riverside park from where ABC showed a photograph

Romario describes Pele as 'mentally retarded'

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) _ Barcelona and Brazil striker Romario was quoted by the Brazilian press Friday as saying that soccer legend Pele was "mentally retarded."

The Jornal Do Brasil newspaper and Globo Television both said that Romario had made the remark in Spain in response to earlier comments by Pele that Brazil should not depend too heavily on the diminutive Barcelona striker. Globo also said Romario had called Pele a "museum

Romario was also quoted as repeating his criticism of Sao Paulo striker Muller, saying "he definitely should not be in the national team."

In January, Romario caused controversy by saying he wanted himself. Deportivo la Coruna's Bebeto and Palmeiras striker Edmundo to form Brazil's attack in the

World Cup and that Muller only ever played well in club soccer.

The Jornal Do Brasil added that Romario had taken back the comments on Pele in a later telephone interview. Although he was still annoyed by what he saw as criticism from Pele. Pele, who is in Brazil, was

quoted as saying in reply: "All he (Romario) has done recently is attack people, which worries me... He is a great goalscorer but that is not enough." Romario's comments fol-

lowed Pele's public row with International Football Federation (FIFA) President Jo20 Havelange.

Pele commented: "I'm fed up with controversies with Joan Havelange and the Brazilian Football Confederation and I don't want to waste time with Romario. He can talk as much rubbish as he wants. It doesn't bother me.'

News in Brief

Kasparov denies cheating in Spain

LONDON (R) - World chess champion Garry Kasparov has denied a claim by an opponent that he cheated during a tonmament in Spain, a British newspaper said Saturday. "My conscience is clear," the Times of London quoted Kasparov as saying. The newspaper said Judit Polgar, a Hungarian chess prodigy, had accused Kasparov of taking his hand off a piece, then changing his mind and moving it again. This would be a major infringement of international chess rules. The Times said a Spanish television company. PVS, had videotaped the incident and confirmed Polgar was right. "I definitely saw that Kasparov moved his knight to C5. But then took it back," the newspaper quoted Romanian grandmaster Elisabetha Polihroniade as saying. But Carlos Falcon, chief arbiter at the Linares tournament, said Kasparov had not taken his hand off the

Indy speedway to launch racing series

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - The Indianapolis Motor Speedway will set up a schedule and rules for a new racing series, challenging Indy car racing, Speedway President Tony George said Friday. George said the new series could begin as early as the 1996 season and will include the same cars and drivers that compete in the Indianapolis 500. Cart governs the PPG Indvcar series and sanctions every race except Indianapolis, which is run by the U.S. Auto Club. "I have personally made every effort the past two years to work with the car owner organisation currently governing the series in order to hear and be heard with regard to the direction the series is heading," George said. "I have come to the conclusion that the speedway and the current car owner organisation are simply going in different directions." He did not elaborate.

Fundamentalists try to ban women's tournament

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NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A Muslim fundamentalist group has urged the cancellation of a women's volleyball tournament in eastern India, saying it is against Islamic laws for women to play, news reports said Saturday. Members of Jamait-E-Ulema have threatened the organisers with "dire consequences" if they do not cancel the meet, scheduled to start Monday, the pioneer newspaper reported in a report from Calcutta. The area, in west Bengal state, is dominated by Muslims, and tournament organisers fear the edict might frighten participants. Some ulema members visited the hmes of some of the organisers and participants asking them to give up the idea. The tournament was to mark the Muslim eid, which is celebrated at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. It was not immediately known if the organisers will cancel the tournament, in which several volleyball teams from the state were expected to take part. Muslims make up 12 per cent of India's 880 million people. They are, however, in majority in some pockets in rural west Bengal. Hindus make up 82 per cent of the country's population.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF

WHERE'S THE RUFF?

East-West vulnerable. South NORTH • Q 9 8 6 4 © A 7 © K 3 **♦ K 4 3 2** EAST WEST SOUTH

±3 765 **4AQJ106** The bidding:
South West North East
10 17 14 Pass west North Last

1 1 4 Pass

4 Pass 4 4 Pass

4 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of

There are several ways to try to

tima side out The chaines are by

set up a side suit. The obvious are by finessing for a missing honor or ruffing one or two rounds in the hope of setting up a long card or two. Both run risks: The first that the finesse might lose; the other that the enemy might overruff. South found a surer way to make use of a

side suit on this deal.

probably have been defeated two tricks when declarer took the dia-mond finesse in a vain attempt to

find a ninth trick.

Against five clubs West led the king of hearts. With two sure losers in the major suits, the contract spin the major soms, the contract ap-peared to hinge on losing no dia-mond tricks. Had declarer tried either line suggested in the opening paragraph, the contract would have gone down to defeat. Sin-ilarly, had declarer drawn trumps a diamond loser would have been inevitable. South found a pretty way to land the

club game.
After winning the ace of hearts at rick one, declarer cashed the king and ace of diamonds and led a third round. Instead of ruffing, however, declarer discarded the table's losing heart! This simple tactic killed the

No matter what West did when in with the ten of diamonds, declarer was in control. West chose to exit with a trump. Declarer won in hand, ruffed a heart with a low trump, returned to hand with a trump and roffed a diamond with the king of trumps. After conceding a spade, declarer was able to regain the lead with a ruff, draw the last trump and cash he good diamond for the ful-

World Cup officials suggest alcohol ban

CHICAGO (R) -- World Cup officials, keen to prevent any crowd trouble at the championship, have suggested that venue cities ban the sale and consumption of alcohol before matches this summer.

But, with one leading beermaker and World Cup marketing partner reportedly criticising the idea as "un-American," officials were eager Friday to stress that the recommendation was only

"This is purely a suggestion," stated Sue Carpenter, press officer of the Los angeles venue that hosts matches from the first round through the final on July 17.

She confirmed that the World Cup USA Chairman Alan Rothenberg had written to government officials at the nine venue cities mentioning various measures that would be considered routine elsewhere in the world. A similar ban, designed to

prevent outbreaks of drunken soccer hooliganism, was introduced at the 1990 World Cup in Italy, although it had limited

Details of Rothenberg's letter were published in Friday's edition of the USA Today newspaper under the headline "World Cup officials debate alcohol ban" with reported criticism from leading sponsor and brewer Anheuser-Busch.

"If fans could not freely buy and consume alcoholic beverages at bars and from liquor stores before the game, the chances that we could have an absolutely incident-free event increase dramatically." Rothenberg wrote.

The idea did not find much favour in a country where beer-drinking at ball games is as much a part of the occasion as dancing cheerleaders and hot dogs.
"Obviously once this gets

out into the city here I'm sure

its going to cause quite a stir."

said press officer Jim Froslid in Chicago, a city legendary for "speakeasy" bars during the prohibition years of the 1920s. Joe Castellano, Anheuser-Busch's vice president for consumer awareness, was quoted as saying in USA Today that "this is a solution in search of a

concept that's not going to solve anything. "It doesn't treat the patrons with much respect. It will inspire people to sneak drinks in or buy them the day before."

problem. It's an un-American

Wilander falls in first round of Lipton tourney

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) - Mats Wilander of Sweden, winner of the Lipton Championships in 1988, lost in the first round of the event Friday.

Wilander, playing in his sixth tournament and 10th match of the year, was defeated in his opening match at the \$3.3 million hardcourt event by unseeded American Alex O'Brien 6-3 7-6 (7-3). Wilander, who is also un-

seeded and is ranked 212th in the world. Now has a won-lost record for the year of 5-5. Another yesterday's hero became today's casualty as South African Marcos Ondruska, a semifinalist in the tournament

a year ago, was defeated by

Australia's Jamie Morgan in

the first round. Wilander started slowly against O'Brien, trailing 5-0 in the first set before winning three games in a row. But the effot came too late as O'Brien turned up the aggression and put away the first set 6-3 with

The Swede came within two points of seizing the second set when he led 6-5 and 30-30. But the consistent O'Brien, who relished Wilander's backcourt style, simply rallied steadily

with the Swede, waiting for an opening.

He found it in the tiebreak. setting up match point after putting away a forehand winner to close out a long raily. He took the match when Wilander netted a forehand volley.

"I played all right after the first five games," said Willander, who is taking his comeback more seriously after playing sparingly in 1993. "iwas playing a little too loose on the big points in the second

The 29-year-old Swede said he has resigned himself to the grind of tour travel in order to

You have to win matches to enjoy it and the only way to win matches is to play a lot of tournaments," Wilander said. "But I've decided to stay in America mostly. Then the travel is not too bad." Ondruska, ranked 72nd, was

soundly beaten by the 71st-ranked Morgan 6-2 6-3. Ondruska had toppled Michael Chang and Michael Stick on his way to last year's semificul. But his first serve deserted him against Morgan.

The Australian attocked Ondruska's weak second serve

Mats Wilander

and passed the South African mercilessiv. The victory was sweet for Morgan, whose nerve was shattered during a catastrophic fourth-round loss to country-

men Wally Masur at last

year's U.S. Open when he quandered a 5-0 lead in the fifth set.

Since then, Morgan has struggled, and has suffered six straight losses in the first or second round this year.

China agrees to probe match-fixing charges

BELIING (R) - China said Saturday it had formed a panel to investigate Asian Football Confederation allegations of match-fixing by members of both its national squad and top club, Liaoning.

Confederation Secretary General Peter Vellapan said Thursday the national team and club champions Liaoning might have been paid off by a syndicate of Thai bookmakers. A spokesman for the Chinese Football Association said it took the allegations

seriously and immediately

formed a board of inquiry.

China's official Xinhua news agency reported. The charges involve China's participation in the King's Cup in Thailand last month and Liaoning's match in the Asian club championship finals.

January and February. Vellapan, speaking in Kuala Lumpur, said bookies were staying with the teams in the official hotel and it had obviously affected their performances on the pitch.

"All this time we thought this cancerous disease was confined to this (Southeast Asian) region," Vellapan said. "Now I've been informed it has spread to the Chinese team."

The Lianoning squad from the northeastern Chinese province of the same name reached the Asian club semifinals, but lost 4-1 to a side from Oman. It then fell by he same score to Japan's Yomiuri Nippon in the third-place play-

China's national team won, drew and lost in its three games in the King's Cup. We have people watching

the games - technical experts who watch the matches and comment on the performance of the teams." Vellapan said. "We also have people stayed

in the hotels and noticed bookies befriending the team."

Coach slaps sex ban on World Cup players

GENEVA (R) — A sex ban has been imposed on Switzer-land's World Cup players for the forthcoming finals in the United States.

"I want my players to concentrate totally on football with all their strength," said the Swiss national coach. Englishman Roy Hodgson.

He has ordered his squad to stay celibate from June 7 when

they leave for a friendly against Bolivia in Montreal June 11. Switzerland's opening match of the finals is against hosts the United States in Detroit June-

The Swiss tabloid Blick ran a front-page story on Hodgson's him as saying: "This is not a pleasure trip. I will not tolerate any wives or girlfriends in the squad's hotel.

Sonics, Hawks reassert supremacy SAN ANTONIO, Texas (R) The Seattle Supersonics and Atlanta Hawks reasserted sur-

remacy in their conferences Friday, Seattle on a last-gasp thriller over San Antonio and Atlanta with a rout of Chicago. In San Antonio, Gary Payton's 18-foot jumper from the left baseline with 1.2

seconds remaining littled the Supersonics to a 100-99 victory over the Spurs. Seattle trailed 97-94 with just over two minutes left. But

took a one-point lead on baskets by Shawn Kemp and Payton. Willie Anderson's tip-in put San Antonio up 99-98 with 7.1

seconds left. But Payton followed with the game-winner. Kemp had 23 points and Detlef Schrempf added 22 for Seattle; which has won seven of its last eight games and improved its league-best re-

cord to 44-15. In Atlanta, th by Kevin Willis's 23 points and 15 rebounds, trounced the Chicago Bulls 108-77, snapping a two-game losing streak and avenging Tuesday's 115-95 loss

at Chicago. Scottie Pippen led an anaemic Buils attack with 18 points as Chicago lost for the sixth time in seven games. The win kept the Hawks

(42-18) one game up in the Eastern Conference ahead or

the Knicks (41-19), who had beaten them in Atlanta Wednesday, and four in front of Chicago (38-22) in the Central Division.

In Boston, Patrick Ewing had 28 points and Hubert Davis scoted 25 on 10-for-11 shooting, 5-for-5 from 3-point range, to carry the New York Raicks to their fifth straight win, 90-53 over the Celties. The Celties have lost 14 of their last to games.

At Detroit, Greg Anderson his a durk and Joe Dumais nailed two free throws with less than a minute left to lift the Pistons to a 98-96 triumph over the Cleveland Cavaliers, snapping the Cays' club recordtying 11-game win streak.

Detroit posted consecutive victories for the first time since Dec. 15 and 18. At Minnesota, Alonzo

Mourning had 20 points, 14 rebounds and six blocks as the Corriette Homets calebrated Larry Johnson's return with a 97-91 win over the Timberwolves.

Johnson secred 10 points in 17 minutes in his first game since demaging a nerve in his back Dec. 27. Charlotte went 9-31 in his absence. Mourning had returned Tuesday after a 15-game absence.

At New Jersey, Benoit Benjamin had 25 points and 12 rebounds and Derrick Coleman scored 18 to lead the Nets to a 87-73 triumph over the Indiana Pacers.

Reggie Miller, the lone Pacer in double figures, had 26 points as Indiana suffered only its fourth loss in 19 games. At Washington, Brent Price

capped a career night by hitting a key 3-pointer with 1:18 left in the fourth quarter as the Buliets beat the Denver Nuggets 100-93.

Price, making his first start of the season in place of the injured Michael Adams, had career highs with 19 points and 14 assists. His 3-pointer put Washington up to stay, 94-91.

In Miami, Kevin Johnson had 17 points and a seasonhigh 17 assists. Cedric Ceballos added 28 points and 12 rebounds and Dan Majerle scored 26 points as the Phoenix Suns coasted to a 122-107 vic-

tory over the Heat. In Orlando, the Magic raced ... ter and cruised past the Philadelphia 70ers 112-105.

Shaquille O'Neal had 28 points and 21 rebounds while Nick Anderson and Anternee Hardaway scored 21 each for the Magic.

In Los Angeles, Dominique Wilkins scored 31 and Ron Harper recorded his fourth career triple-double as the Clippers beat the Dallas Mavericks for the 11th time.

Nagano locals face Olympic fears YO (AFP) - Locals are

worried that the next Winter Olympics could cause big trouble for the Japanese mountain city of Nagano by creating recession, corruption and ecological opposition.

"We must give up the games which will only benefit builders," Nagano city assemblyman Juichiro Imai has said. "It will be financially impossible for us to repay all the debt. Construction of new faci-

lities will destroy the natural environment," he said. The city of 340,000, a three hours' express train ride from Tokyo, will be at the core of Olympic sites scattered as far apart as 60 kilometres in a scenic apple-growing region amid the mountains called the

Japanese Alps. But the independent legislator said the city had seen its annual budget jump 70 per cent from the previous year to 160 billion yen (\$1.5 billion) in the year to March 31, largely due to rising construction

Half of the construction costs will be borne by the national government and the rest by the municipal and provincial bodies.

According to initial plans, 80 per cent of the new facilities. including the Olympic village and the administrative headquarters, would have been complete now. But construction work on most of them has just begun.

While the organisers need to

newly build 12 of the 20 venues

for the last winter games of the

century, Nagano will have its

first top-rate hotel rising 17

Imai said the city's debt for Olympic construction totalled 135 billion yen and was expected to exceed 200 billion yen in the future, "We will be repaying 20-30 billion yen for years after the games."

Meanwhile, local administrators and organisers are working hard amid the prolonged recession to solicit funds for the Olympic operation cost, which was set at 76 billion yen in 1991 but needed to be re-assessed.

The lavish spending set by the organisers when they spent an estimated \$11 million bidding for the games seems to be continuing with Mayor Tasu-ku Tsukada touring Lillehammer with provincial governor Goro Yoshimura and 420 delegates from the 1998 Olympic organising committee and local interests last February.

Imai, 66, a former executive of a state financial institution.

atmospheres

who lost to Tsukada in 1985 city mayor election, charged that Nagano had stole the games "by dint of money" and that "the Olympics have been meant for builders from the very beginning."
A group of 57 citizens has

filed a lawsuit, demanding Nagano return 920 million yen in taxpayers' money which has been given as subsidies to the committee which bid for the Nagano Olympics. But the local court last month found all the account books on the bidding expenses had gone mis-

A series of scandals elsewhere, in which contractors bribed local administrators also casts a cloud on the Olympian efforts.

The signing of a contract on construction work on the venue for bobsled and luge has been delayed because one of its contractors has been sus-

Tomorrow is the grand opening of;

Restaurant The restaurant's management is pleased to announce to its customers the grand opening of the newly refurbished restaurant which will offer you the most delicious Mexican dishes in one of the most romantic

"Taco Shell": the Mexican

Ahlan wa sahlan (welcome) to the Tacoshell Mexican

Restaurant in Amman, Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Street, 500 metres after the northern gate to the University of Jordan, towards the

Note: Special discount of 25% on the occasion of the grand opening and for holders of this advertisement.



stories in the city known for a North-South did well to stay out of no trump. That contract would 1.300-year-old Buddhist tem-Tel.: 618274 - 618275 Tel.: 675571 Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155 Tel.: 677420 Tel.: 699238 Tel.: 634144 Cinema ammoun theatre Nabii Al Mashini Theatre anlan theatre PLAZA CONCORD PHILADELPHIA presents a play entitled: CONCORD '1' Nabil and Hisham Theatre Al Her Kuron Sylvester Stallone — in presents 0 Jean-Claude Van Damme **Demolition Man** Adel Emam in A popular political comedy Opening Scon ws: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 8:30 CONCORD '2' Ahlan Arab Summit Conference Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali hard target A political comedy D (play) TERRORIST Women of Desire in addition to other comedians Forbidden × Forbidden Shows: 11:00, 1:00, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Shows: 5:30, 7:00, 8:45, 10:30 Every night at 8:15 Shows: 10:(8), 12:30, 3:00, 5:00 6:45, 8:30, 10:30 daily at 9:15 p.m. Tickets are sold all day Special film for children Theatre is closed Sundays, Monday-**Dennis The Menace** Coming scent Title most play and Tuesdays Shows: 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 3:00 p.m

Only certainty for Somalia appears to be more violence

By Terry Leonard The Associated Press

MOGADISHU - Departing American soldiers lounged against their duffle bags while automatic weapon fire rattled a few hundred metres away, outside the main airport gate.

Somali factions were settling a dispute with volleys of fire. Neither the Americans nor the remaining U.N. peacekeepers knew or cared what it was about or who

More than a year after American and U.N. troops waded ashore in Somalia, the country is still an armed camp, with no government and little chance of creating

U.S. troops are scheduled to withdraw from Somalia by March 25, and other nations also have announced they will pull out from the peacekeeping mission. A U.N. force of more than 19,000 soldiers will remain. two-thirds of them from India. Pakistan and Egypt.

General John Shalikash-vili, the U.S. joint chiefs of staff chairman, was due here Saturday to praise the troops for helping end Somalia's famine.

Now the country's future depends to a great extent on its two principal warlords. Gen. Mohammad Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi Mohammad. They talk peace and reconciliation, but pursue the goal along different and seemingly nonintersecting paths.

"Warlords, as long as they can be king, will be king of nothing," Maj. Gen. Thomas Montgomery, the U.S. com-

Boris Yeltsin, pushing Russia's

thrusting new diplomacy into

higher gear, named a top di-

plomat as his envoy on the

Middle East crisis on Friday

and sent his foreign minister on

a peace mission to the region.

Russia's new assertive di-

plomacy in former Yugoslavia.

appointed the head of the fore-

ign ministry's Middle East De-

partment, Viktor Posuvalyuk.

as his special envoy on the

Presidential envoys are

usually appointed to handle

matters crucially important to

Russian interests. They enjoy

wide authority and close ties

With Russia, which had

been playing a minor role on

the world stage, seeking to

reenter the Middle East di-

plematic scene. Foreign Minis-

ter Andrei Kozyrev set off for

situation in the Middle East.

Not a single day should be

lost," Foreign Ministry spokes-

man Grigory Karasin told a

to accept an international pre-

sence to protect Palestinians

and conveyed a special mes-

After meeting Prime Minis-

ter Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign

Minister Shimon Peres, he was

expected to meet Palestine Li-

beration Organisation Chair-

man Yasser Arafat in Junes

of Russia's desire to play a role.

in the region similar to its

assertive Bosnia diplomacy last

WASHINGTON (USIA) -

An international peacekeeping

presence in Gaza is greatly

needed and would be wel-

comed by Palestinians

throughout the territories, a

noted Middle East analyst told

a Middle East Institute audi-

"Gaza is a place rife with

international peacekeeping

ence Thursday.

"We should undertake

Mr. Karasin made no secret

sage from Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Regyrev pressed Israel

"There is concern over the

with the president.

Tunisia and Israel.

Mr. Yeltsin, following on

mander, said in an interview. "The warlords are more interested in power than

Foreign diplomats and U.N. otherals still try to keep Somalia talks moving. But their optimism fades as more countries pull out peacekeep-

ers.
"Even if we are incredibly successful, this country will still be a mess," said Ambassador Richard Begosian, the U.S. special envoy to Soma-

Tuesday's fighting in Mogadishu and other factional clashes in Merca and Kismayu were seen as a glimpse of things to come after the withdrawal of American and West European troops this

Somali faction leaders might be able to avoid a return to the all out civil war that produced famine and anarchy, reduced much of the country to ruin and left 350,000 Somalis dead. But diplomats, aid workers and military officers believe there will be factional fighting as Somalis settle old scores and hummer out the fine points of their negotiations.

Unpaid militias abound. surviving — in polite military terminology — by foraging. It is called sacking and looting by everyone else, but it is the way warlords keep their armies. And to keep them. they must let them fight.

Abdul Karim Ahmad Ali, the secretary-general of Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance, argues that U.N. forces cannot prevent Somalis from fighting. He also said he believed negotiations be-

vent the situation (in the Mid-

dle East) from worsening," he

be given serious consideration.

We hope the visit of Russian

Foreign Minister Kozvrey will

Mr. Yeltsin's evnoy on the

Yugoslav crisis, Vitaly Chur-

kin, brokered Moscow's di-

plomatic triumph in Bosina,

providing the Serbs a tace-

saving solution with a weapons.

pullout deal backed by an offer-

In the Middle East, Moscow

has proposed a new peace con-

ference along the lines of the

historic Madrid forum in 1991

to get stalled Israeli-Arab.

pence talks back on track

Mosesse was a traditional party on the Middle East in the Sovier day, and had especially close this with Iraq and

Now, it hopes to ruse its

international profile by secur-

ing a long-term diplomatic pre-

presence to safeguard their

Dr. Roy pointed out that the

Declaration of Principles

brought "temporary excite-

ment and tremendous expecta-

tions to Palestinians in Gaza"

and raise expectations on such

issues as the Israeli release of

political prisoners, the lifting

security for a long time."

sence in the Middle East.

of Russian peacekeepers.

provide a positive impulse."

"We hope our presence will

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shakes hands with Russian

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in Tunis late Friday (AFP

gears up for Mideast

tween the faction leaders would be successful and there will be no fighting after the troops leave.

As he spoke, his words were nearly drowned out by

Mr. Begosian, the U.S. envoy, said the signals for the future are mixed. Negotiations give reason for hope, but the gaps between the factions are wide, and no one is convinced the warlords are ready to set aside personal ambitions in order to compromise.

The ambitious U.N. plan for nation-building has been scaled down. The United Nations wanted to create district and regional councils leading to a transitional national government. But the plan has been thwarted by clan dis-

Even plans for a police force are threatened. The fractions are squabbling over the makeup of a 10,000member Somali police force to fight rising crime. Bill Kirk, the Australian police superintendent training the force, said the United Nations may not be able to

Mr. Begosian said he believes there is an overwhelming desire for peace among the Somali people. But he notes it is not a country with any democratic traditions.

Gen. Montgomery said he is not optimistic about the

long term.
"What happens here now I don't know." he said. He predicted that if Gen. Aideed does not end up dominant. "we will see more factional

But Israel, which has tradi-

tionally seen Russia as pro-

Arab, is suspicious of Russian

intentions in the region and

firmly rejects the idea of a new

Nationalist gains in Decem-

ber's Russian elections have

produced a more assertive

The government, parliament

and the military have tossed

aside their differences and un-

ited to rebuild Russia's influ-

ence in the tormer Soviet Un-

Mr. Kozyrev made this clear

in an article published in the

daily fzvestia newspaper on

"Russia is doomed to be a great power." he said, "A

qualitations and appressive se-

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nationalist tolic fors peaceful and flourishing under demo-

emtic role - but still a great

only be treated as an equal and

ary, 1994 the level had drop-

not as a junior partner."

"This means Russia can be

peace conference.

mood in Moscow.

ion and the world.

POWCE.

Emerging Yeltsin diplomacy

mediately confirm the attack on the prison in Lambese, also known as Tazoult, in the Aures mountains. The isolated prison is used to house dangerous criminals.

included helicopters was launched in the region, about 400 Algiers, according to the sources, state employees in Batna, capital of the Aures

condition of anonymity, said the attack came as prisoners broke the daily fast that marks the Holy Month of Ramadan.

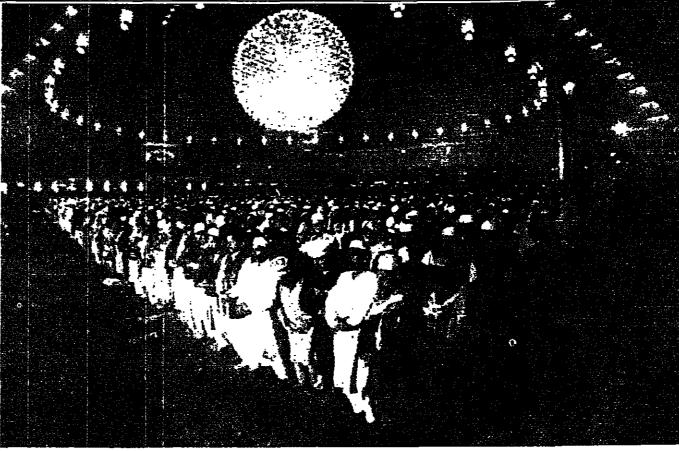
escaped. It said four guards

in two years. A 1991 attack on the military prison at Blida, south of Algiers, freed 103 prisoners, most of whom were

has been an exceptionally vicious month in the insurgency. Three noted intellectuals were killed since the start of Ramadan Feb. 12 and five wounded.

Islamic militants, security forces and civilians - have when a military coup halted legislative elections to thwart a Muslim fundamentalist vic-

Noted playwright Abdul Kader Alloula, 54, was criticaliv wounded Thursday night in the western city of Oran as he made his way to a cultural conference, state radio said



LAST PRAYERS OF RAMADAN: Pakistani Muslims perform the last special prayers of Ramadan at the Shah Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, Karachi. Pakistan, along with the rest of the Muslim

World, begins celebrating the 'Eid Al Fitr feast today (Sunday)

Hundreds of Algerians escape from jail

ALGIERS (AP) — At least 400 prisoners, some Islamic radicals sentenced to death. escaped from a prison in eastern Algeria in an attack by an armed group, well-placed sources said.

The Thursday night attack, reportedly mounted by Islamic guerrillas, is the most spectacu-lar operation since the start of a two-year-old insurgency by the extremists aimed at toppling the military-backed gov-

Authorities did not im-

A vast search operation that

The sources, speaking on

The French news agency Agence France-Presse, citing unnamed sources, reported that as many as 1,000 people

were killed. It was the third prison attack

caught. The attack climaxes what

An estimated 3,700 people been killed since January 1992,

Arab-Americans press for U.S. pressure on Israel

An emotional memorial service for recent victims of violence in the Middle East brought renewed calls for the United States to bring pressure on Israel and the Arab countries to seek a lasting peace.

The ceremony, sponsored by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and other Arab-American orgamisations, was held March 10 in a Senate conference room in the U.S. Capitol. Muslim, Christian and Jewish clergy and members of Congress packed the room to offer prayers for the victims of the Feb. 25 massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and those killed two days later at the Cathedral Notre Dame De La Deliverance, in Jounieh,

Speaking on behalf of the Clinton administration, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe "horror and outrage that such acts could be committed, particularly against those engaged in acts of worship.

"I share this sentiment, as well as the conviction that only the realisation of full peace in the region can bring an end to this senseless loss of life," Mr. Talbott said.

Congressman James P. Moran of Virginia warned that "this type of atrocity will con-

exerts its leverage free of political considerations, but motivated by the principles of jus-tice and human rights." He urged Israeli and Arab leaders "to act with a sense of urgency, fairness and, above all, princi-

pled courage."

Also participating in the memorial ceremony was House Majority Whip David Bonior of Michigan, who called on all men and women of good will "no matter how difficult it might be to gain understanding, to set aside our passions of anger and distrust and leave behind our feeling of suspicion and doubt.... Only by carrying out this response can we assure that the dead have not died in vain." Congressman John D. Ding-ell of Michigan cautioned that

terrorism cannot be allowed to continue, nor can the actions of a few terrorists... deny the people of the Middle East the ace incy deserve

Quoting former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, who said: "Only peace between peoples can last," Mr. Dingell stressed that the people of the Middle East must create a peace based "on justice and a firm, continuing respect for the rights of all."

Albert Mokhiber, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, read a number of statements

sent to the committee by Senator Carl Levin of Michigan, Senator Donald W. Riegle Jr. of Michigan, Senator Paul Simon of Illinois and the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson.

Statements of concern also

came from Massoud Maalouf, charge d'affaires at the Lebanese embassy, and Imam Ghayth Kashif, chairman of the Council of Imams of Washington, D.C.

Hasan Abdul Rahman, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative in Washington, called on Israel and the international community to take steps to guarantee the safety of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

He stressed that "peace has to be made between the Palestinian people and the Israeli people... That's why today we should join together in committing ourselves to the struggie against racism, hatred and violence and those who encourage those kinds of

An invocation was delivered by Imam Anwar Hajjaj, while Msgr. Dominic Ashkar of Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church in Washington delivered the benediction.

The memorial service ended with a prayer for peace from Rabbi Gerald Sewrotta, of the Hillel Foundation of George Washington University.

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Charles, Diana said to clash over son's future

LONDON (R) - Britain's Prince Charles has clashed with his estranged wife. Princess Diana, over his plans for their elder son, Prince William, to have a military career. the Daily Express reported Saturday. The newspaper, quoting unidentified royal sources, said the couple had a row when they met at St. James Palace in London last month to discuss 11-year-old Prince William's future. Prince Charles revealed he wanted Prince William to join the Royal Navy and told Princess Diana he had discussed the issue with his own father. Prince Philip, husband of queen Elizabeth, who agreed it was the best course, said the newspaper. It quoted a source as saying: "The princess was upset because she wants the decision to be left with William." The Daily Express said Prince Charles, a Royal Navy commander. Believed a career in the services was the perfect grounding for Prince William as an heir to the throne. "He is understood to be concerned by his son's apparent lack of discipline and believes the navy would help mould him for his future role as king," said the newspaper. Prince Charles and Princess Diana formally separated in December, 1992, after 11 years of marriage. They have a second son, nine-yearold Prince Harry.

Ex-Bolivian president held in Brazil

SAO PAULO (R) — Former Bolivian President Luis Garcia Meza, wanted in Bolivia on 🕄 charges of drug trafficking, was arrested by Brazilian police in Sao Paulo Friday, Brazilian television reported. Citing the federal police. O Globo TV said Mr. Garcia Meza and a close aide, Colonel Gualberto Rico, were seized at an apartment near Congonhas Airport. The Bolivian consulate in Sao Paulo said it had received no formation about the reporte arrest of Mr. Garcia Meza. who had been on the run from Boliva since he was convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced in absence to 30 years in

New battle breaks out around D-Day cafe

RENNES. France (R) - A

new battle has broken out around the Pegasus Bridge Cafe, the first house in France to be liberated during the D-Day landings in World War II. Local authorities say they want to check the cafe's floors to a ensure that allied veterans, returning for the 50th anniversary of the June 1944 landings, do not fall through them. They have suspended the cafe's licence pending an inspection by health and safety officers. But cafe owner. Arlette Pritchett-Gondre . patron of several veterans associations, refuses to receive the officials. "My conscience is clear and I have no worries." a defiant Pritchett-Gondre. whose establishment at Benouville near Caen is a favourite haunt for returning veterans. said. This house has always been kept in perfect repair and there is no risk of accidents." she said in a telephone interview. She was a child in the house during the World War II Normandy battles and helped to care for the wounded. The office of the local prefect (government representative) insisted that the cafe was state property and that authorities were entitled to inspect it. The small cafe is the only one in France to be listed as a historic monument. "after risking their lives to free French territory, it would be unfortunate for one of these glorious veterans to be a victim of an accident because the floorboards were in poor condition," said Kleber Arhoul, an aide to the prefect. Ms. Pritcheit-Gondre lost an earlier crusade to save the nearby Pegasus Bridge, where the first British paratroops landed at the start of the allied assault. The steel lift bridge was removed in November despite her attempts to keep it until the 50th anniverary of the June 6 landing. Officials said it was dismantled for safety reasons and to allow bigger ships to enter the port of Caen.

Arab World must build strong civil societies, says author Viorst now seeking its own identity,

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Arab world must build a strong civil society if it hopes to be an active and effective player in the international community, says Milton Viorst, a noted author and journalist.

Mr. Viorst discussed the future of the Arab World during a March 9 book review session of his most recent publication: Sandcastles: The Arabs In Search Of A Modern World. The session was sponsored by the Foreign Correspondents

D.C. Mr. Viorst was joined by Pierre Salinger, former press secretary for President John F. Kennedy and Paris bureau chief for ABC News. Mr. Salinger's most recent book also focuses on the Middle East; The Hidden Agenda Behind the Gulf Crisis was published in 1991.

Association in Washington,

Sandcastles is a collection of articles Mr. Viorst wrote for The New Yorker magazine from the 1980s to the present. The book covers Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Jordan, the Palestinians and Tur-

Praising Sandcastles, Pierre Salinger said, "the book should be read by as many Americans as possible so they can understand the very fragile situation" the Arab World finds itself in today.

The title of his book underscores this political and social fragility, Mr. Viorst said.

Outlining the lank's flowe. Mr. Minest Laid the Arab World has entered a phase in its history that is marked both by uncertainty and turmoil. First dominated by colonial powers and then by conflict with Israel, the Arab World is

To fulfill this search, the region must look inward, Mr. Viorst said. The Arabs are "moving into an era where what will be asked of them is a lot of internal reexamination and careful scrutiny of who they are themselves."

Peace with Israel is a corollary to this new focus:

"Zionism has been the one big cause about which all of Arab society has been willing to unite... I think the Arab World has reached a consensus and it is saying now that it can no longer tie its own hands by this obsession with Zionism.

This consensus, however, doesn't change the general fragility of what characterises these societies," Mr. Viorst said. "They are not strong

Years of conflict with Israel strengthened the region's military forces at the expense of its institutions of civil society, Mr. Viorst said. The Arab World must now focus on strengthening its civil society if it hopes to be an effective player in the international community, he

How will the Arab World go about attaining this goal? Which ideology - Islam, democracy, Arab nationalism — and what groups — secular governments. Islamists - will prevail? These are questions that are at the heart of the present struggle in the Arab World, Mr. Viorst said.

"What we are facing is a conflict of great ideas in the Arab World... The Arabs are thrashing around in search of an identity. But they are pretty far from reaching it and I would guess that we are in for a lot of turmoil in the Arab World.'

Mr. Viorst argued for following Western models of institution building:

The Arabs "should take whatever course they want. But let's face it, if you don't emulate the West in terms of building up strong institutions of society, you are going to be a bystander to what the rest of the world is doing - as the Arabs have been bystanders for the last 75 years," since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.
While noting recent success-

ful experiments with democracy in the region, Mr. Viorst said democratisation is not the wave of the future for the Arabs, at least in the near

"I know there are many intellectuals, who looking at Jordan and the thus far reasonably successful experiment of Kingdom with democracy, are saying that the 1990s will be the era of democratisation of the Arab World, I wish they were right, but I think it is wishful thinking," he said.

How should the West respond to what is taking place in the Arab World? Mr. Viorst advised patience and understanding.

"The West might be welladvised to be patient and understanding in recognising that when we transformed our society a lot of heads feil. To believe that the Arabs can do it with any less, is probably un-

insecurity, and...increasing lawlessness" said Dr. Sara Roy, of the curfew, and the reopening of schools. However, the a visiting scholar at the Centre nomic, social, political and in-Hebron massacre "tragically for Middle Eastern Studies at stitutional disintegration was occurring throughout the Gaza underscored the sense of aban-Harvard University. donment, vulnerability and Dr. Roy, a native Gazan and Strip, including the basic social disconnectedness" of the the author of a forthcoming institutions of family, home, Palestinians, hence the need book on the Gaza Strip, reviand community: "Parents can for an international security no longer centrel their chilsited the occupied territories in dren. They can not keep them January. She argued that an in school... The sons of the Economic hardships meaninterim international intifade, new 15-25 years old peacekeeping presence "would while have mounted. Prior to have no defined order or leadbring Palestinians some sense March 1993 and Israel's closing ership." She said that 200,000 of borders, 70 per cent of the of security, some sense of 140,000 Palestinian labour Gazans between the ages of 10 order...(they) have been and 20 fall into that category. force worked inside Israel crying for some sort of an

ped to 11 per cent. Three months after the closure, the dict of many Palestinian families, especially those in refugee camps, consisted of bread, lentils and rice. Today, diets and the standard of living, according to Dr. Roy are far more reduced.

Dr. Roy reported that eco-

Gaza analyst urges interim peace-keepers ings to a trip she had taken a year sarlier. Dr. Roy remarked how there were now many more donkeys and far fewer cars," an indication that Gazans "can no longer afford to maintain a car." Those who do drive cars into largel can expect to earn at least \$50 a day, but those with donkeys, in contrast have an earning potential of about \$11, Dr. Roy said.

Questioned about the U.S. role in alleviating conditions in the territories, Dr. Roy said although money, projects and assistance are important, the crucial issue is democracy. She called on the U.S. government to apply "real prosure to the PLO to be truly democratic."

"Part of that pressure should be to enfranchise people to allow alternative structures and institutions to develop ... to create a pluralistic system. fair elections," she concluded.



Sudan rebu seeks work ROME (R) del leader sa da nyal guerri Agest country पिया प्राप्ता 👡 भाग गाउँदार अस tele them was nem Kharren por the more ատուր և (e.d. Dent of Sudian . Peaceful sett enflict instea ar, sand Kick frof one faction feoplest Line SPLA) Speak len. Mr. Mach. Abartoum go nounting a dry

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